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A TEMPERANCE STORY.

BY

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CHAPTER VII.

EFFECTS OF MALT LIQUORS.

N unforeseen effect of the early form of temperance pledge was to increase the drinking of wine and malt liquors on the part of those who shunned alcoholic beverages, or only touched them in moderation. Naturally enough the most zealous temperance advocates, as soon as they perceived the new evil that was arising, began to favor total abstinence, especially as they had found in practice that nothing short of it would work a reform in persons addicted to drink. Total abstinence was publicly advocated as early as 1820, but it did not make much headway for nearly twenty years. According to one authority the "early reformers built a brewery in Boston for the accommodation of members of the temperance society," and several prominent workers in the cause of temperance advocated the culture of the grape and the use of wines. Down to this day there are not a few friends of temperance who think the drinking of beer and wine should be encouraged; they argue that it is a substitute for stronger liquors, and base their argument on the proposition that men will have some kind of stimulant, and the one that does the least harm is to be preferred. Their argument would have a better basis if they would first demonstrate that any stimulant is really necessary to man. Do the birds of the air and the beasts of the field need any other stimulant than food and water? Would the fishes be willing to exchange water for beer or wine? or, rather, would they be in better health by having the seas and rivers filled with it?

Dr. Green was one of the pioneers in the total abstinence field and met with much opposition. Among his opponents were the majority of the temperance societies, of which the "American Temperance Union" was the chief. The good doctor had not come suddenly into his views; it will be remembered that the society which he organized in Liberty was upon the old plan, and it was not until he had the case of John Graham under serious study that he came out in favor of totality. He had several discussions with Mr. Colby and others of his neighbors, and as he took care to be primed with his facts before entering an argument, he generally came out 'way 1887.....

1888.....ay Mr. Colby urged that the doctor ...not to denounce malt liquors as he H. J. ...eing that they contain a great deal of to the extent. "They are harmless or very on the ty so," said Mr. Colby, "and in a great on the 2... not, for cases are actually beneficial. Let us March reasonable in our arguments and not de... secure the enmity of a large class of the ... population by denouncing such an innocent beverage as beer."

"I certainly don't want their enmity," the doctor answered, "and in everything I do it should be understood that I'm the friend of all and the enemy of none. I propose to show you that malt liquors are a delusion, and I shall show it by figures obtained from men who have analyzed them and studied their effects on the system.

"Malt liquors are much slower in their effect on the body than ardent spirits or wine, but they are none the less injurious for all that, even when perfectly pure, which is far from being the case with malt liquors in general. The injurious drugs that are put into them no one would think of defending on the score of health, with the possible exception of the man that makes and the man that sells them. Their alcoholic principle is as bad as that of any other alcohol; they contain from one and a half to six per cent of alcohol and some of them seven or eight per cent. A man must drink a great quantity of malt liquor to become intoxicated and therefore you see fewer cases of drunkenness with these liquors than with stronger ones."

"That's so," was the reply, "and I've noticed that when a man is under their influence he is generally stupid and not quarrelsome, as many persons are when intoxicated with spirits."

"Do you know why that is?"

"I must confess my ignorance," said Mr. Colby. "Why is it?"

"Because," was the reply, "the hops in the beer are narcotic and inclined to produce sleep. This is the case when the beer is pure; if it is adulterated, as it generally is, it contains hyoscyamus, belladonna, and similar drugs, to increase the narcotic effect of the hops, so the chemist tells us.

"Then there are other adulterations, such as alum and blue vitriol, to preserve the frothy head of the beer; ginger, caraway and orange-peel, to make it pungent; salt, to increase thirst and make a demand for another glass; wormwood, quassia and gen... to increase the bitterness which is all ...d to come from the hops; and coc... dulcus, nux vomica and tobacco, to ...ate. What do you think of that?"

"...you sure you are correct?"

"...sure as a man can be who relies upon ...statements of the chemists, and also ... the admissions of men who have ...n or are still in the brewing business. ...all brewers use exactly the same sub...ces for making their beer; each man ... own way, and this makes the peculiarity of each kind that is sold."

"But in spite of all this, men grow fat on beer, and it is a great strengthener of the system," Mr. Colby responded.

"That may be and is," said Dr. Green, "but what kind of fat does beer make? It is not the substantial kind that comes from eating beef and bread, but it is a sort of bloat or soft fat, in which there is an undue proportion of water. The circulation of a beer-fattened man is sluggish, and his breathing is not easy. It is a matter of record that a goodly proportion of beer drinkers die from palsy or apoplexy, or else by diseased liver or dropsy."

"But I'm sure there's much nutriment in beer and all other malt liquors, is there not?"

"Not so much as you suppose. To begin with beer contains 90 per cent of water, and sometimes more. The other ten per cent includes sugar, alcohol, extract of malt, carbonic acid and other ingredients. There is not more than one part in a hundred of nutritive, blood-forming matter in beer, and I wouldn't be surprised if the proportion were much less."

The doctor was right. Since his time specimens of English beer have been analyzed by Professor Lyon Playfair and found to contain one part in 1666 of nutritive matter. Professor Liebig, the famous German chemist, has analyzed the German beers and declared that he could prove with mathematical certainty that as much flour as can lie on the point of a table knife is as nutritious as eight quarts of the best Bavarian beer; that a person who daily consumes that amount of beer, obtains from it, in a whole year, under the most favorable conditions, exactly the amount of nutriment that is contained in five pounds of bread or three pounds of beef!

A gallon of English "Old Pale Ale," weighing 70,000 grains, contains the following ingredients: Water, 65,320 grains; sugar, 100; vinegar, 200; hop extract, 710; malt gum, 2,510, and alcohol, 1,160. The only food article in the above is the sugar, of which there is one seventieth of a pound or less than one ¼ an ounce. And to think that one only gets a quarter of an ounce of food in consuming a gallon of ale! The alcohol, malt gum, vinegar and hop extract, are not articles of food, as any book on chemistry will tell you. As for the water, it is just as nutritous when taken pure as when mixed with the ingredients which go to make up beer.

The discussion of the gentlemen was interrupted by a call from Mr. Webster, one of the principal merchants of Liberty, who was glad to find them together, as he wished to consult them both. He was cordially greeted and after the customary commonplaces about the weather, came at once to business.

"I want to talk with you about taking Dick Graham into my store," said he. "Dick and his mother heard that I wanted a clerk, and have been to see me about it; his mother thinks it is time Dick was doing something more than odd jobs about the house, and the boy is anxious to be of some help in supporting the family."

"Dick is a good boy," said Dr. Green, "and I believe you couldn't have a more honest lad in your employ. He has certainly been very faithful in looking after his mother and the younger children during these latter years, when his father laid been so much under the influence of drink."

"I can heartily endorse that," said Mr. Colby, "and I've had a chance to see a great deal of Dick under these circumstances. He's an unusually bright and intelligent boy of his age, and is just fitted for a place in a store. His father's training in his sober moments has been good, and he certainly has one of the best and most patient of mothers."

"One thing I wish to know about," said Mr. Webster, "is a matter that may puzzle you a little as it has puzzled me."

"What is that?"

"It is about the possibility of Dick's following in his father's footsteps as he grows older, and becoming a drunkard. If he is at all likely to do so I don't want him in my employ, both on account of the danger to myself and my property, and the temptation in which he would be placed."

"You're touching upon a great question," replied Dr. Green; "the question as to whether drunkenness is or is not a disease, and secondly, if it is a disease can it be inherited?"

"We'll have to consider that matter," he continued. "Suppose you come to my house again this evening, and I'll invite Dr. Hills to join us. We'll have a good talk on the subject, and you know Dr. Hills is considered one of the best medical authorities in the state. He can give us the scientific side of the subject as well as any man I ever heard of."

With this understanding the party broke up.

CHAPTER VIII.

JOHN'S CASE MEDICALLY CONSIDERED.

ROMPTLY at eight o'clock the four gentlemen were in Dr. Green's parlor to consider the question as to the advisability of Mr. Webster's taking Dick Graham into his store.

"It is proper to say at the outset," Dr. Hills remarked, "that my views are not snared by all medical men, though I think they are by the majority. As for that, you could never find any subject on which there will be unanimous opinion, and I think this will apply to all other professions as well as to the doctors."

His hearers fully agreed with him, and Dr. Green said the subject of religion furnished as much occasion as did medicine for divergence of opinion.

"What I contend is," said Dr. Hills, "that there is no reason why inebriety should not be inherited as well as scrofula, consumption, or any other disease. There are plenty of instances of children of drunken parents becoming drunkards when every pains had been taken to prevent their doing so, and I believe the disease may be inherited when the parents are total abstainers."

"That's a strange idea," said Mr. Webster. "How do you explain it?"

"Why, on the ground that diseases may skip one or more generations, as is often the case. Then, too, there are certain tendencies, what we call neurotic taint, which will develop in some persons into hysteria, epilepsy or insanity, and in others into an uncontrollable desire for intoxicants. The neurotic taint may even develop into crime, and we often hear of families wherein a criminal has made his appearance, although for generations all have been surrounded by the best influences. Who has not heard of 'the black sheep' that so often is seen in the family fold where all the rest are of the purest white?"

"John is the black sheep in the Graham fold," remarked Dr. Green, as his medical friend paused. "I have known many members of the family, and he's the only one that ever took to drink enough to neglect his business or be called a drunkard."

"The moderate drinking done by his father and grandfather, and perhaps by other ancestors, may have concentrated their effect in him," replied Dr. Hills.

"That is quite reasonable to suppose," said Mr. Colby, and his opinion was approved by Mr. Webster. Both these gentlemen were much interested in the discussion, as it aroused a train of thought to which they were not accustomed.

"Then you are quite sure that drunkenness is a disease?" queried Mr. Webster.

"Quite so," was the reply, "but at the same time it is a disease that can be controlled and cured. And on the other hand it can be and is brought on by the carelessness of parents and friends, as well as inherited, and by the carelessness or viciousness of the victims themselves. Probably half the drunkards in the world were initiated into their condition in early life. Children are treated to sips of wine or beer, or diluted spirits, by their parents and thus the taste is formed in youth. Boys and young men acquire the habit while at school, in colleges, and societies, or by aping the manners of older persons. When it is once formed it is not easy to break off."

"What general rule would you lay down, if you could have it enforced, to reform the whole nation and make it temperate?" Mr. Colby asked.

"Compel or induce every person not to touch alcohol in any form, or tobacco, until passing his 25th birthday. If this could be done, there would be very few drunkards in the next generation. Only those who possess a natural craving for stimulants would be in danger, and many of these would be restrained by their good sense. There are some persons who are born vicious, and deliberately go into drunken ways of their own free will. These can only be kept from it by deprivation or force; but they are not a numerous body, and are found chiefly among the most ignorant part of the population.

"Curiosity is another cause of drunkenness," he continued. "Thoughtless or short-sighted persons read or hear pleasing descriptions of the effect of stimulants, and naturally desire to try them on themselves. They are sure *they* will never fall into evil ways; that there is no danger of their ever drinking to excess, and so step by step they fall into the drinking habit. The French have a proverb which says, 'It is the first step which costs,' and there is no better illustration of its truth than in the drinking habit. Shun the first step, and the second and all others will take care of themselves.

"With these persons inebriety may be set down to vice, or to indifference combined with curiosity. They do not realize their danger until so late that the effort to break off the habit is more serious by far than they ever expected it would be. Once the habit is formed it is rarely if ever broken until the victim feels its effects in his own physical or mental condition.

"What I mean to say," he continued, warming with his subject, "that no man who has acquired the drinking habit ever breaks it off by observing the effect upon others. As long as the experiences are pleasant he continues; after a while, when he finds himself suffering in various ways, he may make the effort and find it so great that he cannot overcome it, and so he goes on and dies a drunkard. How few men there are who have once begun to drink who can be made to realize that no man ever yet indulged in a fight with King Alcohol and came off victor, as long as he continued to fight as the anaconda does, by swallowing his enemy."

"I could talk for hours on this subject, and still have something to say, but for the present we'll stop generalizing and come to particulars. You want to know what I think of the chances of Dick Graham's becoming a dipsomaniac, like his father?"

"That's exactly what we want to know," said Mr. Colby, and the other listeners nodded assent.

"Well, the chances are both for and against him," said Dr. Hills. "That's a non-committal way of answering, and I'll explain what I mean.

"Dick may have inherited a tendency to drink that could develop itself in later years, though nothing of the kind has been shown thus far. His father's habits and tastes are a disadvantage to the boy, as is evident from the question you have raised concerning him.

"Now, on the other hand, his father's example may be a warning to him, and whenever he is tempted the picture should rise before him of the suffering that has been caused by John Graham's fondness for rum. If the boy views it in the right spirit, it will serve to keep him in the road of temperance, or rather total abstinence."

"Take him into your store, Mr. Webster," said he turning toward that gentleman, "but before you do so tell him what I have said to-day, or, if you like, send him to me and I will give him the warning that he ought to have. Nothing short of absolute abstinence will ensure his safety, as nothing but total abstinence will ensure the reformation of his father. He must be made to understand that there is a danger ever confronting him, and it rests with him to thwart it. If he yields ever so little to temptation he is liable to be lost."

The doctor looked at his watch and rose to go. The others thanked him warmly for what he had told them, and Mr. Webster announced that Dick would begin service with him as soon as he chose to come. He said he would have a good talk with the boy, and if he thought it necessary would afterwards send him to Dr. Hill's.

"Before I go," said the doctor, "I must tell you of the patient I'm about to visit. You all know Sam Abrams?"

All knew the man. He had once been a respectable and well-to-do citizen, but had followed the downward path of the drunkard. His last spree had thrown him into the doctor's hands; he had been there before, but never on such a "close call."

"Drunken men have their peculiarities," Dr. Hills remarked, "the same as sober ones. One of Sam's idiosyncrasies is about his gait when intoxicated; he will never leave behind him a piece of road until satisfied that he has 'walked it right.' If he staggers while proceeding, he insists upon going back and walking it over again, and sometimes he will go the same piece of road over for six or eight times, before he is satisfied.

"Sometimes he imagines that he is dead, and insists that he shall be placed in a coffin and preparations made for his burial. One night it was impossible to quiet him until we brought in a box about the size of a coffin, stretched him in it at full length, and gave the order for him not to move or speak if he were really dead. At that he lay perfectly still and soon fell into a stupor, which was what we wanted him to do.

"Another time, when he imagined himself to be dead, he went to the cemetery, dug a shallow grave, prepared a headboard bearing his name and the date of his death, and, after fixing it in its proper place, he lay down in the grave. A group of boys gathered around and amused themselves by throwing small stones and clods of earth upon the would-be corpse for the sake of hearing its 'remarks.' After a while Sim Clarke, the wit and joker of the village came around, and, walking up to the spot, said:

"'Who's dead? Who's grave is this? I haven't seen it before.'

"This was more than Sim could stand, and he shouted in a voice as sepulchral as he was able to assume:

"'Confound you, Sim Clarke, can't you read?'"

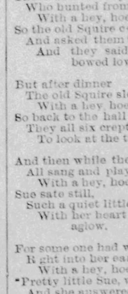
The doctor's story caused a good laugh on the part of his audience, to all of whom were aware some of the vagaries of the unfortunate Sam, but had never heard of this particular one. Sam used to say in his sober moments that he presumed the reason why he imagined himself to have died was because he knew he ought to do so. He had no recollection of what occurred at this time, not even that chaotic remembrance that sometimes follows a dream.

It was all settled, as we have seen, that Dick Graham was to enter Mr. Webster's store and begin life as the clerk of a country merchant. The result of the experiment will be revealed as our story proceeds.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

CHRISTMAS EVE.

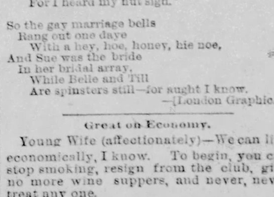
"WHY SHOULD WE WAIT TILL TO-MORROW?"



E stand by your table sighing
And whining in deep despair,
And we watch your dainties lying
In lovely profusion there.

We know they are meant
For Christmas,
For dear happy girls
and boys;
But tell us, my friend,
oh, tell us,
Why should not we
share their joys?

Our hearts they are wildly beating,
Like waves on a rocky shore,



"WHY SHOULD WE WAIT TILL TO-MORROW?"

For such a chance of good eating
We never have had before.

Roast chicken, all dripping with gravy,
Oh, how it appeals to the heart!
(We ought to be off to our kennel,
But from such things how can we part?

And turkey, oh, king of good dishes!
To-morrow our masters discuss
Its delicate crispness, but never
A morsel they'll offer to us.

CHORUS.

We've screwed up our courage to borrow
The wing of a chicken to-night,
For "why should we wait till to-morrow!"
With all those good things in our sight?
—Christmas Chatterbox.

A CHRISTMAS SONG.

HERE were three fair maids,
The daughters of the Squire,
With a hey, hoe, honey,
hie, noe,
And they sate themselves down
Around the hall fire,
All under the Christmas
mistletoe.

Each put her nuts
On the bars quite bold,
With a hey, hoe, honey,
noe, hie,
And Belle got a duke
And Till got gold,
But Sue's nut burned with a long-drawn sigh.

There were three young bucks
Who hunted from the vine,
With a hey, hoe, honey, hie noe,
So the gentlemen did not dine,
And asked them to dine,
And they said, "Thank ye, sir," and all bowed low.

But after dinner
The old squire slept,
With a hey, hoe, honey, noe hie,
So back to the hall
They all six crept
To look at the twinkling stars in the sky.

And then while the others
All sang and played,
With a hey, hoe, honey, hie noe,
Sue sate still,
Such a quiet little maide.
With her heart all aheating and her cheeks aglow.

For some one had whispered
Right into her ear,
With a hey, hoe, honey, noe hie,
"Pretty little Sue, will you marry me, deare?"
And she answered "Yes,
For I heard my nut sigh."

So the gay marriage bells
Rang out one daye
With a hey, hoe, honey, hie noe,
And Sue was the bride
In her bridal array,
While Belle and Till
Are spinsters still—for aught I know.
—[London Graphic.

Great on Economy.

Young Wife (affectionately)—We can live economically, I know. To begin, you can stop smoking, resign from the club, give no more wine suppers, and never, never treat any one.

Young Husband (faintly)—Certainly, to be sure. In fact, of course. And what will you do, dear?

"I? Oh, I'll mend all my gloves myself.—[Philadelphia Inquirer.

"Nasby's" Last and Greatest Story.

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The Demagogue

BY

D R Locke

CHAPTER XXIII.

MR. MASON TAKES A TURN AT THE POLITICAL WHEEL.

AVING provided for the expenses of the campaign, Caleb Mason set to work, with customary vigor and determination, to conquer the nomination for Congress. He recognized the soundness of the maxim, "One thing at a time, and that well done, leads to excellence." He could not hope for re-election unless he received the nomination; therefore to get the nomination was the one thing to do, and Mr. Mason set about doing it with the most praiseworthy assiduity, and with an eye single to that end alone. Once regularly on the ticket, it would be time enough to begin work to render his election certain.

The main sentiment of opposition, in this as in his former campaigns, was in Washington county, his home. The anti-Mason Republicans were in largest force where Mason was best known, and was composed of quite a number of different elements. First, there were a number of old fossils who could not forget Mr. Mason's lowly origin, and who, having set their faces against him in the days when he first aspired to become something more than a coarse, drunken clod like his father, could not have the generosity to recognize in him the undeniable talents he possessed, but still looked on him as a pretentious interloper, and hence one to be sat down on any and all occasions. They were not many in numbers, of course, but they made up in venomous hatred what they lacked in numerical strength. At the polls they cut no particular figure, and Mason looked upon them as very useful adjuncts. They afforded him an opportunity to speak of them as "aristocrats," who sneered at him because he was a "son of the people." Mason well knew—none better than he—that there is no more potent appeal whereby to rouse the prejudices of the masses, themselves sprung from the soil, than to quote that hackneyed sentiment from the Declaration of Independence, which declares that "all men are created equal." Mason himself did not believe it in the sense in which the masses commonly understand it—as a declaration of the absolute equality of all men, in all respects. He knew it to be false, for he knew that a man of brains and talents is superior to a clod, and of more value to the world than a thousand of them. He knew, too, that Jefferson, when he wrote it, if he really was its author, referred only to equality before the law, and to nothing else. But he never said so to his audiences when he was appealing to them to come to his aid against the "aristocrats."

The next, and most numerous class of his opponents, was composed of the men who were opposed to him because he did not rate their deserts as highly as did themselves, and did not add them in procuring the offices for which their souls longed. This was a rather numerous class, for the average American thinks himself fully competent to fill any office in the land, from constable to President; and as there were about two score aspirants for every position as to which Mason had the slightest influence in the choice of an incumbent, it is plain to be seen that the phalanx of the disappointed was numerically respectable, and cut somewhat of a figure in the caucuses and at the polls.

Then there were the honest, intelligent men who were Mason's opponents, because they did not believe in the man,—men who were intelligent enough to fathom him, and who knew him for the conscienceless demagogue he really was. They felt that he was a Republican, not because he really cared for the principles the party stood for, but simply because he wanted to rise to power in the nation, and the shortest way to do this was to be a leader in the dominant party. They knew that he would have been a Democrat just as willingly, had that party had the remotest chance of coming into political control of the National government, and retaining that control. They distrusted his policies, they distrusted his motives, and especially did they distrust his leadership, and oppose the tyrannical and arbitrary methods by which he kept so firm a grasp on the party of the district.

These were the men whom Mason really feared. They were not to be reached by the means familiar to him. They did not want office, and could therefore not be bribed in that way; they were upright men, and therefore could not be bought. They were intelligent men, and therefore could not be browbeaten; they were upright men, and therefore could not be assailed in their private characters, and silenced that way. And the most vexing thing to Mason was, that the very qualities that rendered them unmanageable by the ordinary demagogic methods gave them the respect and confidence of a goodly following of plain, honest, plodding men, who took no part in politics save to vote, and who consequently were his enemies also.

There was but one thing Mr. Mason could do—he could appeal to the voters to support him because of his services to the party," and solemnly warn them against "silk-stocking Republicans," who refused to "abide by the will of the majority of the party, as expressed by the party's representatives, in delegate convention assembled." He would doubtless have called his opponents "cranks," but that expressive word had not yet come into use in the offensive sense it now bears.

Mr. Mason looked over the field, and carefully laid his plans to capture the majority of the delegates—or, rather, to see to it that, so far as he could control the caucuses and preliminary conventions, no delegate should be sent to the congressional convention who was not his own man. He determined that he would not only capture the nomination, but by so great a majority that his foes in his own party ranks should become discouraged, and abandon their warfare upon him in despair. So an active campaign, but withal a quiet one, was begun in the outside counties; and when the campaign had been gotten in good shape therein, he prepared to begin work in his home county. He rejoiced that the county ticket was also to be nominated, as it gave him an opportunity to put his peculiar tactics into play. He knew that his "silk-stocking" adversaries would confine their efforts to work against himself. As he put it, "They did not know enough of practical politics to understand the use of combinations." And himself being a past master in the art of combination in factional fighting, he prepared to make his choice of the candidate for each of the county offices to be filled that fall.

Of course it was already decided who were to be the candidates of the Harvey ring for county auditor and county treasurer, as these were vital to the continuance of the Harvey family, and in a great decree of Mason himself, in power and influence. In point of fact, were they to lose control of the treasury books, the defalcations would be discovered, the Harvey family financially ruined, and two, at least, of them would be likely to land in the state penitentiary.

The county commissionership was the place most eagerly coveted, outside of the two above mentioned, because of the large financial interests which were involved. The office was one always eagerly sought by well-to-do farmers who had become possessed of political ambition. The board had charge of all county improvements, such as opening new roads, improving highways, building bridges, putting up new public buildings for the county, and what was of the highest importance in that section, the laying out and digging of ditches for the proper drainage of the rich lands of the "Black Swamp," as that whole region was then called.

Of course the members of the board were, in the discharge of their duties, brought in contact with the entire farming community of the county, and were, in fact, the men whose work was of the most importance to them directly. Hence it was natural that when an agriculturist of influence, or of wealth, or both, became impressed with the idea that he should cut a figure in the arena of county politics, he very naturally turned his eyes toward the one office of the most interest to his class, and which would magnify his importance among his fellow-farmers.

There were several aspirants for the nomination, one living in Pulaski, and the others in the country. The latter were all farmers; the Pulaski man was a merchant, who had become convinced that good roads were a factor, not only of civilization, but of traffic, that the way to increase trade was to render travel easy and secure, and that the way to do this in Washington county was to turn the roads leading from Pulaski to the back townships into turnpikes. His ideas were good, and he advocated them with much vigor and ingenuity of argument. He got the people of Pulaski to see that good roads would bring more country people to town, and bring them oftener, and thus increase trade; he got the farmers to see that they would increase the value of their farms; and he was a candidate for county commissioner with the avowed object of improving the roads. He had a pretty good following of his own party, and could count on a good many Democratic votes at the polls if he should receive the nomination.

Another aspirant was Mr. Saxby, a wealthy farmer of the northern end of the county, and a man respected by every one who knew him. He was a strong advocate of "high farming"—that is, of thorough tillage, proper fertilization, due rotation of crops—of farming thoroughly just as much ground as you can cultivate completely, instead of half caring for a larger area. And he preached the doctrine that it was better to get thirty bushels of wheat per acre off fifty acres than to get fifteen bushels an acre off one hundred acres, as taking but little more than half the labor, with equally large pecuniary returns. His farm was the only one in the county that did not show a single stump disfiguring its fields. His fences were perfect, and the corners were not filled with blackberry vines and elder shoots, nor were his pastures grown up to sassafras and scrub oak. He had been for several years president of the county agricultural society, and was looked up to by the farmers of the entire county as a representative man, in whom they had perfect confidence; and Mr. Mason speedily came to the conclusion that the nomination would necessarily be either Mr. Saxby, or Mr. Parker, the turnpike man.

Which should he use to make his combination? After considerable reflection, he made his choice; and being a man prompt to act, when he had made up his mind, he called on Parker at once, and requested that gentleman to call at his office that evening for consultation.

Mr. Parker was on hand at the designated time, and to him Mason at once opened up the subject of the commissionership. He expressed himself as in full sympathy with Parker's views on the turnpike question, but added:

"I doubt, though, Parker, that you are wise in attempting to make a campaign on that issue, or even in trying for the county commissionership."

The astonished Parker demanded to know why?

"First, because you are a grain merchant. Now, everybody knows that good roads would enable the farmers to haul grain to town in rainy weather as well as in dry weather. There would not be a tremendous rush when the roads were good, and none at all coming in when they were muddy, as is now the case. You would be able to handle a far greater amount of grain under such circumstances than you do now, because it would not require so much capital. I know, of course, as does every other man who knows anything about the grain trade, that you have to borrow money very largely when there is a rush of grain offered, while in bad weather you have your money lying idle in bank. To have greater regularity in the influx would enable you to use your own capital to greater advantage and to borrow capital to greater advantage. Good roads would be thus of great benefit to you in your affairs, and as the people know that as well as you, you will find the charge of self-seeking, which is sure to be raised against you, a difficult one to meet."

"But," interrupted Parker, "I never thought of any advantage that would come to me. Good roads would benefit every business man in Pulaski as well as myself!"

"Quite true; but the other business men are not talking of running for commissioner in order to build good roads, while you are. Do you see the point?"

The mortified Parker admitted that he did, but maintained stoutly that his advocacy of turnpikes ought not to be used against him in his candidacy.

"I agree with you, Parker, that it ought not," returned Mason, "but all the same it will be, you can be certain. There is active competition in the grain trade; your competitors will use it against you among the farmers, and with effect, I can assure you."

"Why should they, of all people?" demanded the perplexed Parker. "Good roads would benefit them as much as myself, wouldn't they?"

"Certainly they would. But they will oppose you, not because you favor turnpikes, but because you are their competitor in business, and their principal one. You do a larger business than any other grain man in Pulaski. If they can get the farmers to thinking that you are anxious to be commissioner simply to get turnpikes, for which they must pay in taxes, in order that your business may be benefited, they will badly injure your trade, not only this year, but in the future; and they will profit thereby. Now do you see the point?"

Parker, much disturbed, admitted that he did.

"Now, Parker," went on Mr. Mason, "you are a friend of mine, and have proved yourself so in politics more than once. I have had intimation of the work that is preparing to injure you, and I deemed it no more than a friend's part to warn you, so that you may go into the campaign with your eyes open."

"What do you advise me to do, Mr. Mason?"

"I would not presume to offer my advice, Parker; you know that I do not like to take sides in the little differences of opinion about county offices. I only want to see the Republican party retain control. At the same time I cannot see a good friend taking a step that will assuredly injure him without pointing out the unwelcome fact to him."

Parker thanked Mason effusively. He really began to think the latter had done him a great favor. "I don't care for the office itself, Mr. Mason," he went on; "but I am so anxious to see an improvement of our roads. It would benefit everybody. You see——," and he went on to recapitulate the advantages that would accrue from a system of turnpikes.

"That is all true, Parker," returned Mason, "but it still is no reason why you should injure yourself financially to get an office with that end in view, especially as you say you do not desire the office for its own sake. Why don't you throw your influence for some other candidate, who would pledge himself to you to work for the turnpikes?"

"I don't quite understand you, Mr. Mason."

"Why sacrifice yourself, if you don't care for the position itself? Why not look about among the other men who are aspirants for the nomination, determine who is the one who could best carry out your ideas and who, of course, favors them, and go to him and offer, if he will pledge you that, if elected, he will use every effort to inaugurate a system of turnpikes, to withdraw in his favor and turn your support over to him? That would disarm your enemies in your own line of business. They want turnpikes as badly as you do; they will turn in and work for the other man, in order to get them. The improvements will be made as quickly as if you were elected, and you will suffer no loss."

The plan struck Parker as so feasible that he expressed wonder that he had not thought of it before. Then he began to speculate as to who was the best man to begin work upon.

"Who are the candidates for nomination?" asked Mason.

Parker named them over—including Saxby.

"Saxby?" said Mason, inquiringly. "Is he the man who is president of the agricultural society?"

Parker signified that he was.

"How does he stand on the turnpike question?"

"He incidentally expressed himself as favorable to better roads in an article he wrote for the *Ohio Cultivator* some three months ago. That is all I know of his views."

"If he is favorable, it seems to me that he is the best man. He stands well with the farmers, I understand; and I suppose there is no doubt of his Republicanism?"

"Oh, no! he was an original abolitionist."

"I don't believe I know the man," said Mason, with a reflective air. "I have to go up to that part of the county in a day or so, on some business, and I really believe I will call on him and get acquainted with him."

"Are you?" exclaimed Parker, joyfully. "I wish you would sound him about the turnpike matter."

"I shall be glad to do it, on your account," responded Mason, warmly. "Do you wish me to say anything else, in case he is a friend of the roads?"

"If you will be so kind, Mr. Mason I should be rejoiced to have you do it."

"H—m—m! Well, Parker," responded Mason, after a minute or two of pretended deliberation, "as I said before, I do not like to meddle in country politics; but as a personal favor to you, I will undertake your mission."

Parker warmly expressed his thanks.

"By the way," resumed Mason, "how do the men you have interested in your turnpikes stand toward my renomination? I don't mind saying to you privately—privately, remember—that I have a large majority of the delegates so far selected; I am certain of the renomination, but I want to have my own county unanimous, if possible. Can you aid me in the matter?"

Parker, proud of the confidence reposed in him, and of the friendship of Mr. Mason so signally exhibited in the interview, pledged himself to work zealously for Mason, and gave all the information he possessed as to the predilections of his own supporters. Then, warmly shaking the Congressman by the hand, he took his departure, feeling much elated over the whole matter.

Mason stood in the doorway of his office, watching the retreating form of Parker. "It is a great thing to be able to make a man do as you wish, and still have him think that you are yielding to him, instead of his yielding to you," he remarked to himself, as he turned away. "Now if Saxby is as pliable as Parker, we can fix this matter nicely."

The next morning he paid a visit to Saxby. As has been remarked before, Mr. Mason was not a man to let grass grow under his feet. On the way, he stopped at the house of a farmer friend, and in the course of the conversation asked if the latter was a subscriber to the *Ohio Cultivator*?

"Oh, yes, Mr. Mason. I have taken it for years."

"I have been told that Mr. Saxby, the president of the Agricultural society, had a very excellent article in its columns some three or four months ago. Do you remember it?"

"Quite well."

"Have you the issue containing it? I should be glad to read it. Unfortunately, I do not take the paper myself, and being told of his article, I feel sure that you took the paper, and that I could get a look at it from you."

The farmer spent a quarter of an hour looking it up, and with a look of gratified pride, placed the copy in Mr. Mason's hands.

On his way Mason read the article attentively; and when he arrived at Saxby's house, opened his business by a neat reference to the article, which he commended in well-chosen terms. This put the flattered Mr. Saxby on excellent terms with himself, and gave him a very kindly feeling for Mr. Mason. The latter soon found Saxby to be strongly in favor of turnpikes; and the remainder of the task proved a remarkably easy one.

Saxby was astonished and delighted to be told that Mr. Parker had so high an opinion of him that he was willing to drop his own candidacy and throw his strength for himself, if the aforesaid Saxby would pledge himself to work for the improvement of the roads, and at the same time see that the delegates chosen to the county convention, so far as he could control their selection, should be men who would vote for Mason delegates to the Congressional convention. Mr. Mason therefore went a step farther, and put in a good word for the candidates for treasurer and auditor selected by the Stevens ring, and obtained Mr. Saxby's adhesion to them; and departed for home that evening, fully satisfied with his day's work.

The next day Mr. Saxby came to Pulaski, in fulfillment of an arrangement to that effect made with Mason. He met Parker, at Mason's office, and the triple alliance was further discussed and finally ratified.

Mr. Mason, having thus set the wheels in motion that were to grind his grist for him in that mill, started out on a similar campaign among the candidates for the next office, and so on down the ticket. It took hard work and close calculation; but by the time he had finished his job of pipe-laying he was able to determine the personnel of the entire county ticket which would be nominated; and to be certain that the county convention would send a solid delegation for himself to the Congressional convention of the Sixth district.

But meantime his enemies were not idle, especially that portion of them he was wont to stigmatize as the "silk-stockings." Dr. Blanchard was especially active. Wherever Mason had gone in his campaign work, he heard of work being done against him, and the paths that most frequently crossed his own were those made by Dr. Blanchard and Mr. Gleason.

The steady, quiet, dogged activity of the latter, as it was, by chance, revealed to him, filled him with disquiet, in spite of himself. He had met Gleason once, and been signally worsted—for the first time in his life in a contest with another man. He was now sure that Gleason had not given up the chase—that the battle must go on with that tireless foe till one or the other met his Waterloo. Then the fact that Gleason and Blanchard were together—hunting in couples, as it were—showed a full understanding between the two, and a common purpose to overthrow him.

More than once he speculated whether they had any secret motive—whether there was any weapon in their hands save a common enmity toward himself. It made a cold chill run over him at the thought of such a possibility. If a knife was in the hand of either, he knew that they were waiting for a favorable opportunity to strike a fatal blow. But he always reassured himself by the thought that there was no possibility of that; there was nothing he could recall that he could imagine might be used by them to compass his downfall.

Then the thought would recur that he did not dream of the receipt which Gleason had toiled over for so many hours to reconstruct, until he was confronted with it; and the possibility that there was another surprise of a like weighty nature in store for him was not pleasant.

But what could it be?

He never thought of the death-bed of old Farmer Dunlap; his mind always took the direction of the county treasury, and his connection with the Harveys in the plundering of that. But he felt reasonably sure on that score. He had not himself benefited directly, nor was there any documentary evidence in existence to connect himself with any of the money that had been taken illegally therefrom.

All of which shows that the lot of a rogue is not a pleasant one, and that the man who enters upon dishonest ways never knows what moment the bolt may fall that will strike him down.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

CHRISTMAS BELLS.

RING the glad tidings, the Saviour is born!
Ring it, ye bells, on this glorious morn!
And perched on the branch of my Christmas tree,
A motley assemblage of maidens see.
Know you what tale to their minds it tells,
Your loud merry clanging, ye Christmas bells?

Then list! To proud Maud
her silken gown,
To long braided Grethchen, content with her share
Of chance, though not gold, of sausages rare,
Your chiming weaves sweetest and fairest of spells,
Bears whispers prophetic of "wedding bells."

All swiftly as out rings your warning tongue
His sweetheart gets ready the tea for Ah Lung,
And ebony Chloe of Fifth avenue—South—
In welcoming smiles spreads her generous mouth.
Far different to them is the treat it foretells—
Your meaning prosaic, just "dinner bells."

Blanco in tune shakes her gay tambourine,
And lightly to church trips demure Angeline,
Bestowing no looks to the left nor the right,
Though noting full well the admirer in sight.
But soon a sweet smile all his doubting dispels,
And gayly your chiming betokens "sleigh bells."

The children run out lugged for gifts to receive
And all the world full is of joy, I believe,
For northward and southward, to east

Recent Literature.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Latest Issues That Have Reached the Blade Book Table.

From A. C. McClurg & Co., 117-121 Wabash avenue, Chicago, we have the following volumes:

"Facts, Fancy and Fable," a new handbook of ready reference on subjects generally omitted by cyclopedias—and one of the most useful books of the sort that ever came under our notice. By H. F. Waddall. Cloth, $3.

"Abdallah, or the Four Leaved Clover;" by Edouard Laboulaye. Cloth, $1. A new lowion of this charming French classic.

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From Rand, McNally & Co., 148-154 Monroe street, Chicago, we have "The Abbe Constantin," by Ludovic Halevy—a splendid translation, beautifully printed, with the original illustrations.

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From Funk & Wagnalls, 18-20 Astor Place, New York, we have received Vol. XI of Parker's "People's Bible," covering the book of Job. Cloth, $1.50.

The C. R. Barns Co., 821 Pine street, St. Louis, Mo., send us "New Light From Old Eclipses," by Mr. R. Page—a remarkable book, correcting Gospel chronology and harmonizing the four Gospels. The date of Christ's birth is fixed as the spring of B. C. 3. Cloth, $2 50.

LADY GODIVA AND PEEPING TOM.

The True Story of this Well Known Couple.

Although the history of Lady Godiva and Peeping Tom is looked upon by many as a legend or a fable, it can and is clearly proved by the highest authorities, to be an historical fact and not imaginary. We have indubitable proof of the existence, rank, and importance of Leofric, Earl of Mercia, in the earlier part of the eleventh century. His earldom comprised the principal Midland countries of England. He married Godiva or Goneva, "a most beautiful and devout lady, sister to Thoroid, sheriff of Lincolnshire." Leofric was a powerful, exacting chief, yet he distinguished himself by some liberal and great deeds. One of the most memorable is his having conjointly with his wife, Godiva, founded in Coventry, in the year 1044, a magnificent monastery for the monks of the Benedictine order, which, as a consequence in those days, drew a large flow of population and wealth. In the days of Leofric Coventry was heavily taxed, but the earl imposed still more exortionate taxes upon farmers' produce, &c., and consequently upon the food of the people.

The citizens of Coventry were on the point of starvation, and begged for the tax to be taken away, but Leofric, overbearing as he was, would not yield to their clamoring. Lady Godiva, being a kind, benevolent and self-sacrificing creature—the reverse in her personal and moral attributes of her proud and imperious lord—sought Leofric and beseeched him to repeal the tax. He was immovable, and half in anger, half in scorn, he answered jeeringly that if she would ride naked through the city he would take the tax away, little thinking his words would be acted upon. Godiva, whose heart yearned and ached for the poor, accepted his condition. Every door and window was ordered to be closed and barred, nor was any one to attempt to look upon her as she rode along the streets. All the streets were empty of people, and no one dared to look upon the woman as she rode along—to save the people from starvation—except one fellow, whose curiosity was too much for him. He could not resist from violating that instinctive moral law; so he peeped through the shutter of his window, and, as he did so, we are told that his eyes left their sockets and fell to the ground. By other authorities we are told he was struck blind. From a window in a corner of a street in Coventry a man still is peeping—this man is of wood, and his name is Peeping Tom.

By this self-sacrificing action of Lady Godiva the tax was repealed, and her name is handed down, and will be, to posterity. She is always spoken of with reverence, as a grateful community—or descendants of that community—should do. In Tenny-son's poem dedicated to Lady Godiva, commencing:

I waited for the train at Coventry;
I hunted up the fair, to see the sights,
To watch the three tall spires; and there I shaped
The city's ancient legend into this—

will be found a graphic and interesting description of the event in verse.

There was an old rhyme relating to Godiva's redemption of the tax, in the Trinity church, Coventry, which appears to have been set up about the time of Richard II., and which remained there for ages after.

At regular intervals of seven years (unless upon special occasions) a procession is made round the city commemorating the Lady Godiva. Of course the lady personating Lady Godiva is decently attired, and the details to carry out the event to obtain a lady combining beauty and good moral character to take that *role*. Other historical characters are included in the procession; also corporation officials, trades representatives, rifle volunteers and yeomanry cavalry, etc., take part in the procession, making it a very interesting and long one.

ROBERT T. LINCOLN.

His Father's Letter to Gen. Grant Concerning Him.

The simplicity and sincerity of President Lincoln were shown in nothing better than in his letter to Gen. Grant regarding the placing of his own son, Robert T. Lincoln, on the general's staff. This letter was as follows:

"Please read and answer this letter as though I was not President, but only your friend. My son, now in his 22d year, having graduated at Harvard, wishes to see something of the war before it ends. I do not wish to put him in the ranks, nor yet to give him a commission, to which those who have already served long are better entitled and better qualified to hold. Could he, without embarrassment to you or detriment to the service, go into your military family with some nominal rank, I, and not the public, furnishing his necessary means? If no, say so without the least hesitation, because I am as anxious and as deeply interested that you shall not be incumbered as you can be."

Gen. Grant responded, suggesting the rank of captain for Robert T. Lincoln, because he had several staff officers of that grade, and that is the way the President's son went into the army with a commission.

—Attention! If you desire a fine head of hair of a natural hue and free from dandruff, Hall's Hair Renewer is the best and safest preparation to accomplish it.

REALISTIC TEMPERANCE.

An Enthusiast's Experiment That Worked The Wrong Way.

Major Dix, an officer well known in the army years ago, had a joke that he used to tell with great gusto. It was about a man in his town who was a rabid anti-drinkest. He went to some expense in trying to convert his neighbors. He hired a painter to paint seven degrees of vice in the human stomach. He began with the pure and innocent interior, and worked up by degrees to the stomach ruined by liquor. Those seven stomachs were each hung on a pole, and every day seven men paraded the streets with the terrible exhibition. One day Major Dix met him:

"What do you mean by parading such a horrible exhibition through the town?"

"To show the public the horrors of drink."

"Well," said Major Dix, "you'd do more good to keep them inside your house. They make me so sick every time I see them I have to go and take a drink to get over the sensation."—[San Francisco Chronicle.

A Sure Sign.

Merritt—I'm afraid Cora's love for me isn't just what it might be.

Giles—That's nonsense, old boy. She fairly idolizes you.

"I don't know so much about that. I gave her a costly present last night and before she thanked me she ran upstairs to show it to her mother."—[Judge.

Force of Habit.

Mr. Bullion Bag (to Count Spaghetti, about to marry his daughter)—"See here let me give you a tip."

Count Spaghetti (holding out his hand)—"Sank you, sare."—[Life.

BEECHAM'S PILLS cure Sick Headache.

THE CORONER UNDERSTOOD.

It was a Suicide and a Broken Heart—Not Unexpected.

They had lifted the body out of the canal and a dozen of us stood around it when the coroner came. He glanced at the face, asked who first saw the body, and then said:

"I have expected this for a year or more. Poor fellow! No inquest will be necessary."

"But isn't it a case of suicide?" asked one of the crowd.

"Certainly."

"And shouldn't you investigate the causes which drove him to the rash act?"

"I know them already. He was a clerk in a hardware store next to my office. Last summer he got charge of the refrigerator department. A hundred times did I hear him repeat:

"'A refrigerator? Certainly, ma'am; step this way and be seated. Now, then, our Peerless refrigerator is built entirely on scientific principles. This, as you will observe, is the ice chest. The cold current passes from the ice down these air pipes to the right, circulates along the racks, passes up through those pipes to the left, and escapes out of that ventilator in the end. There is always a constant current of air, not only preserving the articles placed on the racks, but carrying the odor away. We guarantee that you may place onions and butter side by side for one week, and that one will not taste of the other. Inside this zinc lining is a layer of charcoal two inches thick. Our refrigerator is cooler with five pounds of ice than any other with twenty. The circulation is on scientific principles, as you will observe. No bellows are needed to create the current. There are no cog-wheels to get out of order—no springs to give way. Actual experiments have demonstrated that there is an actual saving of 50 per cent of ice during the season. The racks are galvanized, as you will observe, and the trimmings are of the latest and best patterns. We sold three right along last year at $18, but, having secured all the hardwood lumber in the country, and having a monopoly on the supply of ice in the United States, we have decided to reduce the price to $15.'

"Day after day for three months, and sometimes five or six times a day, he repeated this statement," said the coroner. "He knew that it was only a question of time when the end would come. The 1st of October they changed him into the coal stove department, and then, day after day, he sang this song:

"'A base-burner? Certainly, ma'am—right this way. Presume you saw our advertisement last Sunday. The climax in base-burners has at last been reached. Here is the mammoth Acme. Isn't it a beauty? Everything, outside of the grates and windows, made of solid nickel and warranted not to turn black. It's as handsome as a painting, and lots of people who can't afford a piano are buying these stoves simply as a parlor ornament. What would our grandfathers and grandmothers say if they could step from their graves and behold a specimen like this! We have ladies come in here and ask permission to sit down and criticise the stove as a work of art, the same as a piece of statuary or a painting. And now for the interior. This is the fire-pot, as you will see. As soon as a combustion takes place the hot air is drawn down through these flues, passes twice around the base, ascends to the dampers and from the top passes over the five flues to be reheated, and finally escapes by the flue when it has no further value as a heating power. Economical? That's our strong point, ma'am. We claim that this stove will heat four times the surface with one ton of coal that any other stove will with three. It feeds and regulates itself. Any child can run it. No gas can escape when the stove is closed. All its parts are handy to be got at, and by no possibility can any accident occur. It lights a room so that no lamp is needed, saves enough in coal to buy all your meat and potatoes, and when not in use as a stove we have a music box to go inside of it.'

"'Poor fellow!' sighed the coroner, as he bent over him in pity. 'These were the songs he was compelled to sing to earn his daily bread, and we who were near him knew that the end must finally come. It has come. He did not want to live any longer, and none of us can blame him. I will turn the body over to the undertaker. The jury could only find that he died of a broken heart."—[N. Y. Sun.

IT WAS A NARROW ESCAPE,

But It Tickled the Old Hoosier Immensely.

By this self-sacrificing action of Lady Godiva the tax was repealed, and her name is handed down, and will be, to posterity. She is always spoken of with reverence, as a grateful community—or descendants of that community—should do. In Tenny-son's poem dedicated to Lady Godiva, commencing:

One day I was riding along a highway in Indiana when I came upon a pile of bedding and articles of crockery and hardware in front of a farm-house, and seated on the horse block was a corpulent old man with a red face. Naturally enough I asked him what had happened, and he went off into laughter which lasted a full minute before he could reply.

"Them duds belong to Ben and Mary."

"But who are Ben and Mary?"

"Ben's my—ha! ha! ha! I've jaffed till I'm almost dead. Ben's my son, and Mary is his—ha! ha! ha!—wife."

"But who tumbled those things out there?"

"I did."

"And where are Ben and Mary?"

"She's gone home and he's broke for the woods. Stranger, excuse me, but I'd have to jaff if there was a corpse in the house. It's too durned funny for anything—ha! ha! ha!"

And he yelled and whooped until he could have been heard half a mile. When he sobered up a little I asked:

"Is there a joke in this somewhere?"

"Is there? Whoop! I should say there was! Go into the house and you'll find the old woman nigh dead with laffing."

"Well, what is it?"

"Why, Ben got married about three months ago. Purty good boy, but inclined to be tricky. He married a purty fair gal, but she's dreffully ambitious. They cum home to live, and about a mouth ago wanted me'n the old woman to deed over the farm to them and be taken keer of the rest of our lives. We didn't like the idea, but they hung to it, and so last week I made out a deed and handed it over. It wasn't a deed discribin' this farm, but some other farm, though it all looked reg'lar nuff."

"You doubted their faith, eh?"

"I kinder did, and so—ha! ha! ha! Say, stranger, don't think hard of me, but I've got to laff or bust. Just tickles me way back to my shoulder blades!"

He went off into another fit, and when he got his breath again he continued:

"This mornin' was the sixth day since they got the deed. As soon as breakfast was over Ben said they'd concluded to git along without our valued company, and suggested that as it was nine miles to the poor-house, we make an early start. He intended to turn us smack out doors without a dollar, but he got left. I told him he'd better look into the deed a bit, and he went to town and diskivered the trick I had played. You orter seen them two when they come back! Why, why——"

And he laughed again until I had to pat him on the back to prevent a catastrophe.

"They were the humblest, down-trodden-est, used-upest, gone-to-pieces pair you ever sot eyes on. Ben got a plug of terbacker and a hoss pistil and left fur the woods, and Mary tied a wet towel around her head and hoofed it fur her father's house. I've brought out their duds and piled 'em up here, and if they don't send fur 'em before noon they kin go to the dogs."

"Well, they deserve it."

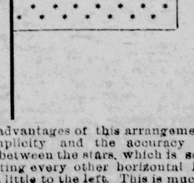
"Yes, they do, but it was a narrer escape fur me. If that deed had bin all right me'n the old woman would be paupers today. But it wasn't all right, and—and——"

And I had driven at least half a mile before I lost the sounds of his laughter.—[New York Sun.

The Stars on the Flag.

New York Sun.

What shall be the new arrangement of the stars on the national flag? There are 42 of them, and it is evident that several symmetrical combinations are possible. According to the *Army and Navy Journal*, this is the one that the Navy department has already adopted, and that the War department is likely to follow:



The advantages of this arrangement are its simplicity and the accuracy of interval between the stars, which is secured by shifting every other horizontal line of them a little to the left. This is much better than merely aligning all the lower rows of stars exactly under the top row. But with a number like 42 it is possible to make several other arrangements of the stars in the union of the flag more elaborate and perhaps not less neat and striking

THE ARIZONA KICKER STILL LIVES.

The Editor Likes His Profession and Declines Preferment.

We extract the following from the last issue of the *Arizona Kicker:*

On Monday evening a committee of prominent citizens waited on us and tendered us the nomination for lieutenant governor of this state, accompanied by such words of praise and esteem as brought tears to our eyes. While we had to decline the nomination, owing to the pressure of our private business, the spirit which actuated these gentlemen will make a better man of us. There is everything to encourage a Western editor to git up and hump himself like a jack rabbit carrying sail before a pack of coyotes, and we wouldn't exchange our present position with Mr. Wanamaker if he would throw in ten Sunday schools to boot.

THE JUDGE HAS GONE.

More than three months ago the *Kicker* very kindly but firmly informed Judge Grulley that this wasn't the climate he was seeking after, and once or twice since we have courteously inquired why he didn't get a movement on him. Last Saturday night a committee waited on the judge. It had a rope along, and the rope was used to elevate the tardy traveler off his feet several times. When let down for good he had a gargle for a sore throat put up at the nearest drug store, and then walked. It was a hint not to be disregarded, and he will now honor some other town with his presence. He was not a subscriber to the *Kicker*.

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The Camp Fire.

[Contributions from the old soldiers are earnestly solicited by the editor of the CAMP FIRE. No matter if you cannot write a lengthy history of your lives, for we much prefer short, lively sketches, personal and historical. All communications will be attended to, and no contributor will be overlooked. We do not want anything from the records, as we are supplied with a full set.]

STIRRED UP MEMORIES.

Tod's Barracks and the Zollicoffer House—The Thirty-eighth O. V. I.

THE letter from Comrade Fred Rogge in the Camp Fire of December 12 stirs up a flood of memories. I, too, was set apart for the ministry, by both parents and friends; but, as I failed to accept what I styled a "call" to a most "sacred calling," I did the "yearling steer" act as vigorously as did Comrade Rogge.

Like him, too, I took French leave and went to Toledo. He got there in February and I in October, 1864. We were both quite young. I was under 16. He enlisted in the 38th O. V. I., while I fell in with a man by the name of Christian Woehler, a clothing dealer on Summit street, Toledo, O., who promised me $450 and the finest suit of clothes in his store when I returned. The $450 was paid in full, but the suit is still due. I do not know whether Mr. Woehler expected me to return and claim the clothes or thought it more probable that my body would be left in the Sunny South. It is quite likely the gentleman has joined the silent majority long ere this; but if he is yet alive, and we ever meet, I shall claim my suit of clothes!

[NOTE.—Mr. Woehler, the clothing merchant referred to, died in the '70's.—EDITOR.]

After staying a week or ten days in the Toledo barracks, we were taken to Tod's barracks in Columbus, O. Comrade Rogge, you doubtless had cause for boarding around among the sutlers at Camp Chase; but had you been in Tod's barracks you would have fared no better. There I saw potatoes thrown with a common scoop-shovel from the wagon into the large kettles and cooked—dirt, straw, leaves, etc., being all cooked up together. I think you will agree with me that boarding around among the sutlers is anything but luxury. Our crowd were only too glad to start for the front—and glory.

We went from Columbus to Nashville by way of Indianapolis and Louisville. By the way, comrade, are you quite sure that Kentucky whisky had nothing to do with your guard house experience in Louisville? I know some of our crowd were overcome by it—but not I.

At Nashville we were quartered among myriads of graybacks in the Zollicoffer house. Here it became my unpleasant duty to "draw" a canteen from another company, to replace one stolen from me. Were you in the Zollicoffer house? that graypack incubator? where every crack in the floor, and every seam in the wall was alive with crawling vermin? If you were, you know how rejoiced we were to leave it when we were ordered to Chattanooga. We raw recruits received our arms at Chattanooga. They were issued to us from a small brick church in the suburbs. Here we were detailed to guard a drove of cattle through Georgia. Comrade, do you remember the big drove of beeves that followed you to the sea? We followed the center, recruiting the herd at every opportunity with the scrubby cattle brought in by our foragers. We were at King's Bridge, over the Ogeechee, when Fort McAllister was stormed. Shortly afterward, we moved to Savannah, and I and about fifty others were transferred to the 38th. We were permitted to choose companies. I chose Co. A. Were you with us at Savannah? Our mess was on the extreme right of the company, the last shanty toward company headquarters.

From here on my experience was the same as that of the regiment, for I was never absent from it a day till we were discharged at Cleveland, Ohio. I am a member of Neal Post, G. A. R., Sidney, O., and am also third sergeant in Co. D, 33 reg't, O. N. G. If you, or any 38th pard, can tell me when and where our next regimental reunion takes place, I shall be greatly obliged.—"BEN. WILSON," Co. A, 38th O. V. I., Fort Jefferson, Ohio.

A SHARP-SHOOTER

Has a Word to Say About Strawberry Plains.

EDITOR CAMP FIRE—Comrade Himes, of Lyons, Ohio, and Comrade Fulton, of McDonald, Pa., are both in error as to the Strawberry Plains engagement. Breckinridge had surprised and routed Gillam's brigade of Tenn. Cav. at Morristown, 24 miles east of Strawberry Plains. A detachment of the 2d Tenn. Infty., with the 6th Ills. Independent battery, Captain Oram, were ordered to the depot at Knoxville, not on "double-quick," but on a "dead run." Placing the guns on some old flat cars, and getting on with them, we arrived at the Plains—16 miles—in 16 minutes, and had to stop for water on the way! It was a race between us and Breckinridge, for the bridge across the Holston was to be burned that night. Before we got there with his mind made up to play our game, drink our whisky and mix in our society, his asthma will soon leave him. If he comes in the opposite spirit, some one of our townsmen will very likely feel it his solemn duty to give the weary sufferer a rest.

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CHRISTMAS DINNERS

In the Army—Very Few Luxuries—Pension Red Tape.

EDITOR CAMP FIRE—I have read the Camp Fire with great interest, hoping to hear from some one of the old 13th O. V. Cav., but not a word have I seen so far.

I have been an interested listener to the talk on the subject of pensions, and begin to think that the "blue-coats" are not as near at par as they were in the dark days of our country's peril.

Say, boys, don't you remember some of our old-time Christmas dinners, at which sow-bosom personated turkey, chicken, and such other good cheer, as at that time the folks at home were enjoying, and hardtack was passed around for pound-cake, fruit-cake, cookies, etc., with a little coffee to wash it down. How we wished for and talked about the good things we would enjoy when we got home. Comrades, many of us are eating that old Christmas dinner over again, every day of our lives, and still keep up our courage, as we did then, by thoughts of the future. Comrades, will our pensions ever come? Alas! too late, perhaps, for many of us. I am not able to discuss the why and wherefore of the pension business; but I think there is too much red-tape business, which is keeping needy and deserving soldiers from receiving their just dues. I will hail with joy any measure that will help us; for as the darkey says, "I'se one of dem."—R. F. SPENCE, Co. H, 13th O. V. Cav., Nebo, Ark.

FOR COMRADE PAY.

Comrade Dan Knight, of Colfax, Iowa, has forwarded to the Camp Fire a list of 20 comrades who have contributed their mite for the unfortunate comrade whose home was recently burned. The total amount, $7,80, is subscribed in sums ranging from 25 cents to $1. Comrade Dan adds:

"I fear that the comrades generally do not fully comprehend the unfortunate condition this worthy comrade and his dependent ones are in, virtually without house or home in the world; all their clothing being destroyed except what they had on while working in the fields when their home was consumed. They are absolutely at the mercy of the relentless Dakota winter. Comrades, over 50,000 of us veterans read THE BLADE CAMP Fire. I know a majority of us are comparatively poor, yet there are few who can not spare the small sum of 25 cents to relieve a worthy comrade and his family from the suffering which is inevitable unless we come to the rescue.

"I have forwarded to Comrade Pay the amount received to date, from the true-hearted comrades who have so kindly responded, and I hope that many more will contribute to the relief of a deserving family."

The names of all who respond, together with amounts subscribed, will be sent to the Camp Fire, and the funds forwarded by Comrade Knight to Comrade Pay, who will acknowledge receipt of same.

TO COMRADES.

The soldiers who are constantly seeking the address of former comrades are respectfully referred to the notice below of Comrade Dean, late of Co. G, 4th Mass. Infty., 1st Mass. Bat., and Co. B Frontier Cav. He has been an invalid for a long time, and wishing to be useful to "the boys" in some way has collected and filed for reference the names and addresses of thousands of comrades from many different regiments. He has established a soldiers' information bureau, and gratuitously offers to give comrades who apply any information he can, asking only that they inclose with their letter of request a stamped envelope, as he does not feel able to bear the expense of postage and stationery. The attention of the Camp Fire readers is called to the following:

OFFICE OF SOLDIERS' INFORMATION BUREAU, WELLSTON, Ohio.

I have on my files the names and addresses of thousands of comrades from nearly every regiment (Union). All communications with stamps enclosed, from comrades or others seeking lost comrades, will be promptly answered. —C. W. DEAN, box 373, Wellston, Jackson County, O.

SHORT LETTERS.

NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT—According to general orders No. 7, issued from headquarters at Detroit, Mich., December 3, 1889, by Commander-in-Chief Alger, the time for holding the twenty-fourth National encampment at Boston, Mass., has been fixed for the second week in August, beginning with the parade on Tuesday, August 12, 1890.

* * *

SONG WANTED—Comrade C. H. Western, Co. A, 74th Ind. V. I., Hudson, Ind., asks some comrade to send a copy of a song, familiar to the soldiers in war times, for publication in the "War Songs." It is entitled "Rosy's Wedding Day," and commences:

Sing, sing away; 'tis my delight
To work by day and sing by night;
To sing this darky's wondrous lay;
For to-morrow is "Rosy's" wedding day!

* * *

A SOLDIER'S DAUGHTER.—I am a soldier's daughter. My father served for Uncle Sam in the late rebellion nearly two years, in Co. E, 4th Iowa Cav. He still has the gun and sabre that he carried when he was a soldier lad. He was only 16 years old when he enlisted; but he was as brave as any that wore the blue. I am a Republican, and am glad that Harrison was elected President. I have never seen any letters in the Camp Fire from my father's old comrades, but I should like to ever so much. Father always enjoys reading the Camp Fire letters.—FLORA E. CRAVER, Red Rock, Mont.

* * *

OLD TARS.—In a publication devoted to the Navy, I read the expressions, "Old Tars" and "Old Salts." Now, the question arises, Why is a sailor, though he may be a lad but 15 years old, called an "old salt" or "old tar," while the soldier of 50 years is termed a "boy?" Are the "boys" so called because they "had so much fun" in the army? While at Milwaukee last fall I was on board the gunboat Michigan, and I couldn't see much chance for fun on board ship.—CAVALRYMAN.

* * *

PENSION APPLIED FOR—If we had been as derelict in our duty in the "sixties"; or required as many affidavits as to our country's need, as are now required of us ex-soldiers to establish claims for a pension, on account of our broken-down health and shattered constitutions, in consequence of rushing to the rescue of an imperiled country, where would our noble republic be to-day?—WILLIAM N. SUTTON, Co. K, 67th Ind., Vol. Infty., Clearwater, Neb.

* * *

RATHER INCREDULOUS—For seventeen years I have been a subscriber of THE BLADE, and I love to read the letters in the Camp Fire from the old "soldier boys." I am glad to know the man is still alive who saved the 4th A. C. at Spring Hill. I was there—a member of that corps. As it was about 11 o'clock at night, I don't suppose the rebs were aware of the fact that we passed them at Spring Hill. Duck river was five or six miles in the rear of Spring Hill. Now, I would like to know what Cheatam expected Forrest to do that far in the rear? Forrest was not hunting the 4th A. C. One of Forrest's men is my neighbor, and when I called his attention to the Iowa cavalryman's account of the occurrence, he remarked that he did remember hearing a gun fired somewhere along Duck river that day; but

Question Bureau.

Rules.—1.—Do not send more than three queries at one time. All questions, to receive attention, must be on separate sheets from business letters or articles for other departments, written on one side of the paper only, and the true name and address *must* be given. If requested, the name and address will not be published.

2.—Do not ask us where you can *sell* anything, or where you can *buy* anything. Such requests are advertisements, and must be paid for.

3.—No addresses will be given, either of business firms or of persons, in reply to requests. To do so would be to give them free advertising.

4.—Do not ask whether any business, company or individual is reliable. We will not reply.

5.—This department is intended to answer only such queries as are of *general* interest to the masses of the BLADE'S readers; hence we will not waste space in answering questions that are not.

6.—We can not give space to mathematical problems, puzzles, etc., nor will we decide bets.

7.—No replies by mail, under *any* circumstances.

Our Imports and Exports.

H. Z. W., Bolivar, Mo.: Probably the better way is to give you the statistics, and let you work out the percentages you desire from them. Here are the imports and exports of the United States for the first ten months of the year 1889:

IMPORTS.

Of the United States for the first ten months of 1889.

FREE OF DUTY.

Animals, n. e. s.*	$ 3,286,354
United States products returned	4,126,203
Books, maps, etc., n. e. s.	916,975
Chemicals, drugs and dyes, n. e. s.	22,863,289
Cocoa, crude leaves, etc.	1,931,723
Coffee	66,996,162
Eggs	1,535,134
Fish	1,398,481
Fruits, nuts, etc., n. e. s.	5,021,070
Furs and skins, undressed	2,141,246
Old rags; shoddy; waste	18,766,315
Household and personal effects	2,178,351
India rubber and gutta percha, crude	9,805,565
Grass, silver-bearing	4,422,791
Paper stock, crude	4,984,146
Silk, unmanufactured	14,784,408
Spices, unground	2,228,922
Tea	9,463,897
Tin, bars, blocks, pigs, etc.	19,983,675
Wood, lumber, and timber, n. e. s.	3,529,831
Articles free from Hawaii	13,453,300
All other articles free	16,101,127
Totals, free of duty	$217,038,167

—*The abbreviation "n. e. s." means "not elsewhere specified."*

DUTIABLE.

Animals, n. e. s.	$2,782,179
Books, maps, etc., n. e. s.	2,370,917
Breadstuffs: Barley	1,466,789
All other	202,272
Buttons, except of brass, gilt or silk, and button molds	2,796,989
Chemicals, drugs, n. e. s.	10,980,003
Clocks and watches, and parts of	1,023,938
Cotton, manufactures of	22,895,516
Earthen, stone and china ware	5,632,498
Fancy articles	6,081,822
Fish, n. e. s.	2,342,791
Flax, hemp, jute, etc.: unmanufactured	20,124,428
Manufactures of	23,107,796
Fruits, including nuts, n. e. s.	8,707,712
Furs, dressed on the skin, and manufactures of	4,569,249
Glass and glassware	6,027,583
Iron and steel: Iron ore	1,567,535
Manufactures of: Tin plates, etc.	18,630,065
All other	17,286,088
Jewelry, manufactures of gold and silver and precious stones	11,877,589
Leather, and manufactures of	9,642,501
Silk, manufactures of	31,531,933
Sugar, molasses, and confectionery	81,776,158
Tobacco: Leaf	11,475,375
Manufactures of	3,229,162
Vegetables	2,073,914
Wines	6,231,576
Wood, and manufactures of	10,393,880
Wool: Unwashed	16,595,347
Manufactures of	47,167,423
All other dutiable articles	41,230,647
Totals, dutiable	$431,412,842
Total value of imports	$651,451,309

EXPORTS

Of the United States for the first ten months of 1889.

Agricultural implements	$ 3,886,972
Animals	21,348,203
All other	1,837,795
Books, maps, engravings, etchings and other printed matter	1,536,686
Breadstuffs: Corn and meal	31,856,860
Wheat and wheat flour	70,285,634
All other	2,981,397
Chemicals, drugs, dyes and medicines	4,463,165
Coal	5,558,708
Copper: Ore	7,012,121
Manufactures of	1,504,133
Cotton: Unmanufactured	176,812,511
Manufactures of	8,665,611
Fish	4,838,215
Flax, hemp and jute, manufactures of	1,800,890
Fruits, including nuts	3,370,588
Furs and fur skins	5,047,184
Hops	1,148,837
Iron and steel and mfrs of (not including iron ore)	19,015,388
Leather and manufactures of	9,990,126
Naval stores (rosin, tar, turpentine and pitch)	2,172,624
Oil cake and oil-cake meal	5,776,036
Oil, mineral: Crude	5,030,860
Refined or manufactured	39,487,359
Vegetable	1,848,260
Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products:	
Meat products	89,249,950
Dairy products	11,146,699
Seeds	1,740,944
Spirits distilled	2,239,144
Spirits of turpentine	3,620,133
Sugar and molasses	1,714,967
Tobacco: Unmanufactured	19,154,033
Manufactures of	3,156,859
Wood, and manufactures of	24,387,069
All other articles	32,092,420
Total value exports domestic merchandise	$625,677,347

The totals of imports and exports for the five previous years are here given:

	Imports.	Exports.
1884	$641,879,451	$566,049,384
1885	577,654,909	603,877,187
1886	653,059,912	543,966,911
1887	596,787,921	556,493,349
1888	610,947,688	519,360,347

Sunrise on the Tropics.

H. J. T., Rosario, Wash., writes: "In regard to the sun rising and setting due east and west on the Tropic of Cancer or the Equator either on the 21st of June or December, I do not, for I have been there. On the 21st of March and 21st of September it rises and sets due east and west at both places; and on the equator at noon on those days a post standing exactly perpendicular will cast no shadow. I have been in Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaiian Islands, on that date, and have lived several years on the Gilbert Islands, in latitude 1 deg. 51 min. north, and longitude 173 deg. 4 min. east of Greenwich, have been on the line about that date, have been south as far as to double the Cape of Good Hope, and know whereof I speak. I was in the Gilbert Islands as a missionary of the A. B. C. F. M. [American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.] The sun is overhead at noon on June 21, but it rises and sets north of east and west."

H. A. M. C., Wick, Pa., writes: "In the BLADE of November 28, a correspondent questions the correctness of an answer given by the Question Bureau in regard to the point of the compass at which the sun rises and sets on the 21st of June at the Tropic of Cancer. You stated that the sun rises and sets due east and west at the northern tropic at that time. As a matter of fact, the sun rises nearly 20½ north of the east point at the Tropic of Cancer at the summer solstice. The obliquity of the ecliptic is about 23½°, and on the 21st of June the sun attains its greatest north declination, rising at the equator just 23½° north of the east point and the farther north we proceed the farther will the sun rise from the east point, until at the Arctic circle it rises and sets due north, or more correctly, remains in sight throughout the 24 hours of the day, touching the horizon when due north.

"If the sun rises due east when in declination 23½ degs. n, then it must necessarily rise 23½ degs. south of east when it reaches the equinoctial point, which is absurd. You seem to go on the theory that when the declination of the sun is equal to the latitude of a place that it rises in the east point and sets due west at that place. This is true only at the equator. In every place in existence it is equally true that the sun's declination the sun is in the zenith at noon, but on account of the obliquity of the diurnal motion in considerable latitudes, the sun must rise some distance north or south of east (according to whether we are in the North or South hemisphere) in order to be in the zenith when it reaches the meridian. The sun's rising and setting amplitude may be determined for any place and date by the use of a terrestrial globe or by a simple mathematical computation. For example find by computation the rising amplitude of the sun for the Tropic of Cancer June 21:

Sine (sun's declination) 23½ deg. equals	9.60070
Secant (latitude) 23½ deg. equals	0.03760
Sun's rising amplitude E. 25¾ deg. N. sine equals	9.63830

"In the same manner we find the sun's rising and setting amplitude at Toledo on the same date to be 32¼ deg. north of the east and west points. In Loomis's Practical Astronomy on the subject of the diurnal motion, pages 114, 115, the problem 'To find the amplitude of a star when it is in the horizon' furnishes an example which, I think, is sufficient to disprove the stand THE BLADE has taken. That is the most conclusive proof that I can find, to show that I am right and THE BLADE wrong; but if still not convinced I would request the editor of the Question Bureau to procure a terrestrial globe and perform the problem for himself; or I will be willing to submit the question to any practical astronomer."

W. F. A., Summer Hill, Ill., writes: "The reason why I proposed the question in regard to the rising and setting of the sun on the 21st of June and answered by you in THE BLADE of November 7 was that Dr. A. Wilford Hall, of New York, in one of his articles alluded to it, and I thought him in error, and therefore desired your opinion. His answer is the same as yours, but you certainly are both in error. C. Mitchell & Co., in their Encyclopedia, vol. 9, page 42, say, referring to the equator, 'When ever the sun comes to this circle it makes equal days and nights all around the globe because he does not in other time of the year.'

"A person on the tropic of Cancer on March 21 goes the sun rise and set due east and west. Now it is hardly possible that the sun advances no farther north during the succeeding three months, which must be true if he still rises due east and west.

"Again, on June 21, standing on the tropic of Cancer, extend a imaginary line due east and west until outside the earth's diameter, and let it fall perpendicularly through the earth, and it will bisect it, passing out at the tropic of Capricorn. It is evident that a plane coinciding with this division of the earth would pass south of the sun, and that ther fore he could not rise and set due east and west on the tropic on that date."

Our thanks are due the above correspondents, and others who have answered. We believe the three letters above cover the case completely, and hence use them.

Foreign Moneys

Subscriber, Green River, Ill.: The following are the standard denominations of money in the principal countries of the world, with their actual values in United States money:

EUROPE.

Austria—Florin or gulden, of 100 kreutzers, nominally 48 cents; actual value, 40 cents; kreutzer, real value, 4 mills.

Belgium—France, about 19 cents.

Denmark—Krone or crown, of 100 ore, 27 cents.

France—Franc, about 19 cents 3 mills; each franc 100 centimes, hence 1 centime is almost 2 mills. The napoleon, or 20-franc piece, $3.86.

Germany—Mark, about 25 cents; thaler equals 3 marks, or 74.6 cents; the pfennig is 1-100 of a mark, or 2½ mills.

Great Britain—The unit is the pound, $4.84. The gold coins are the sovereign, $4.84; half-sovereign, $2.82. Silver—Crown (5 shillings), $1.216; half-crown, 60.8 cents; shilling, 24.3 cents; the penny (copper) is 2 cents, half-penny 1 cent, farthing 5-8 cent.

Greece—Drachma, about 19 cents; lepta, nearly 2 mills.

Italy—Lira (plural lire), the same value as the French franc.

Netherlands (Holland)—Guilder, or florin, 40 cents.

Portugal—Milreis, $1.06; reis, 1-1000th of a milreis, hence a minute fraction over 1 mill.

Roumania—Lei, the same as the French franc.

Russia—Rouble, silver, 76 cents. There is hardly any money in circulation but the paper rouble, nominally the same as the silver one in value, but which actually passes for only 48 to 52 cents.

Servia—Dinar, equal to the French franc; para, 9.6 cents.

Spain—Real, about 5 cents; pesata (pistareen), 18.2 cents; escudo, 48.4 cents.

Sweden and Norway—Same as Denmark.

Switzerland—Franc, same as the French.

Turkey—Lira, or gold medjidie, $4.32; piastre, 4 cents.

ASIA.

China—Tael, about $1.40; mace, 14 cents; candareen, 1.4 cents; cash, 1.4 mills.

India—Pice, 2½ mills; pice, 7½ mills; anna, 6 cents; rupee, 24 cents; gold mohur, $7.26. A "lac" of rupees is $25,000; a "crore" of rupees, $2,500,000.

Japan—Yen, or dollar, nominally 96 cents, really about 88 cents; the sen is 1-100th of the yen. Japan coins a "trade dollar," about equal to the Mexican dollar in weight and fineness.

Persia—Keran, 19 cents; toman, $2.23.

Siam—Dollar, 90 cents; tical, or bat, 52 cents.

AFRICA.

Algeria—Sequin, gold, $2.04; monzonnah, 1½ cents.

Egypt—Piastre, about 5 cents; para, 1¼ mills.

Morocco—Mitkal, about 4½ cents.

Tunis—Piastre, about 12 cents; karub, ¾ of a cent.

SOUTH AMERICA.

Argentine Republic—Peso, or dollar—96 cents.

Bolivia—Peso, or dollar, 80 cents.

Brazil—Milreis, par value, 54 cents; actual value, 40 cents. The milreis equals 1,000 reis, in which accounts are kept. The currency of Brazil is paper treasury notes, much like our greenbacks, which are depreciated from 25 to 30 per cent.

Chili—Peso, or dollar, 80 cents; centava, 8 mills. The condor is a 10-peso coin; medio-condor, or dollar, a 5-peso coin; and escudo, a 2-peso coin.

Columbia—Peso, or dollar, 96 cents.

Ecuador—Sucre, 80 cents.

Paraguay—Peso, or dollar—nominally 96 cents, actual value 80 cents; 100 centenas equal 1 peso.

Peru—Sole, nominally 96 cents, actual value 84 cents.

Uruguay—Peso, or dollar, $1.02; 100 centavos make 1 peso.

Venezuela—Venezolano, 80 cents; the bolivar equals a French franc, or 19.3 cents; 100 centavos make one venezolano.

NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA, ETC.

Canada—Dollar, considered equal to one dollar, though the average rate of exchange is only 96 cents.

Costa Rica—Dollar, nominal value, 96 cents, actual 78 cents; 100 centavos equal one dollar.

Guatamala—Dollar, or piaster, about 96 cents; 100 centavos equal one dollar.

Hayti—Piaster, or dollar, nominally 96 cents, actual value 80 cents.

Honduras—Dollar, nominally 96 cents, actual value 80 cents.

Mexico—Dollar, nominally 96 cents, actual value 88 cents.

San Salvador—Peso, or piaster, $1.03; dollar, 96 cents.

2.—You will find your questions about Talmage's sermons answered last week.

Treasury Funds in Banks.

C. S. J., Wagstaff, Kan., speaking of an editorial in the Weekly BLADE of December 12, which said: "Every thinking man would see, however, that if the government changed the banks interest, they would simply add that rate to the one they exacted from the borrower; the banks would make just as much profit, and the borrower pay more for his accommodation," asks: "I can neither see the justice in the government's lending money to banks *without* interest, according to the proposition in the article above referred to, nor the logic in the argument that, if the government charged the banks say 3 per cent., and the banks 6 rate S per cent., that they would therefore charge the borrower 13 per cent. On this supposition, why could they not still lend it at four per cent., and make a clear profit of 3 per cent., minus the incidental expense of handling it?"

It is always a proper thing, in a business sense, for the government to step in, when it can do so, to guard against a tightening money market. Secretary Fairchild, during the last administration, did this, loaning over twenty millions of government money to a number of national banks, without interest, they depositing government bonds of equal amount as security. The word "justice" you use incorrectly. The money draws no interest while in the treasury; and it is better to have it used thus to relieve the money market than to have the rate of interest paid by borrowers go up. That should be plain. There is no doubt but that the banks would not borrow the money if they had to pay the interest, unless they could obtain increased interest. The interest might not be equal to 13 per cent., as in the example you give, but it would certainly be increased. Probably you are not fully familiar with the practical workings of banking in great financial centres. Secretary Windom does not "lend the money" to the banks; they borrow it to call the money in, and use it in buying bonds outright, thus stopping the interest on them. The money paid for the bonds of course goes directly into the circulation.

Four Misused Words.

C. S. J., Wagstaff, Kansas, asks: "Please distinguish between a 'monopoly,' a 'trust,' a 'corner' and a 'syndicate'?"

These four words are very commonly misused at the present time. The word "monopoly" meant originally that the government of a country took control of the supply of one article, and sold the exclusive right to handle it to some one person. For instance, if no one were allowed to manufacture salt in France, or to import it, but one firm, that firm would have a monopoly of salt. The word would be properly applied to the case of a man who bought up the whole crop of flax for one year so as to control the price. You can see that the word as used in many newspapers, etc., is applied to things which are not monopolies.

A "trust" is a peculiar arrangement like this: Suppose the stockholders of all the sugar refineries in the United States put their shares of stock into the hands of certain men in trust, thus giving these men the management of all the refineries, thus stifling competition and enabling them to fix the wholesale selling price of sugars. That is a "trust." It is not a monopoly, because there is nothing to prevent any one who chooses from erecting sugar refineries and going into the business.

A "corner" is simply the buying up of all of a commodity, or nearly all, so as to run up the price. "Corners" are practiced in grain speculation chiefly.

A "syndicate" is simply a collective name for a number of business men banded together for a single specified object; thus a syndicate of brokers will take an entire issue of city bonds for the purpose of selling them profitably.

Political Queries.

Reader, Hamilton, Mo., asks: "1.—Is there a minority rule in Congress? If so, what is it and how does it effect legislation?" No. It requires a majority vote to enact any legislation, if that is what you mean.

2.—The Republicans, as a rule, favored the specie resumption act of 1875, which went into effect January 1, 1879, but some of the Democratic members voted for it. We do not understand what you mean by "Hayes vetoing it." It was passed during Grant's presidency, and was not vetoed. Please explain.

3.—This questioner asks, "has either party ever had a majority in Congress before? If so, when?" You probably mean to ask about a majority in both Senate and House. Yes. From 1861 to the 44th Congress, which met first on Dec. 6, 1875, the Republicans had a majority in both houses. In that Congress, the Senate was Republican, the House Democratic. The 45th Congress is, 1877-79, was divided the same way. In the 46th Congress, 1879-81, the Democrats had a majority in both branches. In the 46th Congress, 1881-83, the Senate stood: Republicans 37, Democrats 37, Independent 1, Readjuster 1; the House, Republicans 152, Democrats 159, Nationals 10, Readjusters 2. In the 48th Congress, 1883-85, the Senate was Republican, the House Democratic. The 49th and 50th Congresses stood the same way. The fifty-first, now in session, is Republican in both branches.

Some Queries About Money.

J. C. D., Remington, Ind.: 1.—There is no penalty for "destroying" coin—that is, melting it up to be used for other purposes. But the mutilation of coin is punishable by fine and imprisonment, and the mutilated coin is not legal tender, because the mutilation involves, or may involve, the taking away of part of the metal. If the mutilation of coin were not punishable, criminals could punch holes in it, file off small fractions, etc., and thus make a profit selling the filings, etc.

2.—The following is the legal tender value of our money: Gold coins and standard silver dollars are legal tender in any amount. The half-dollar, quarter-dollar and dime, legal tender in sums not exceeding $5 in any one payment. The 3-cent, 2-cent, 1-cent and cent are legal tender up to 25 cents. Greenbacks and national bank notes are legal tender, in any sum, for everything but customs dues and interest on the public debt. Silver certificates of course have the same legal tender power as the silver dollar, as they are mere certificates of deposit of silver dollars in the treasury. Gold certificates are the same, of course.

3.—If money is entirely destroyed by fire, the *gold*, as bullion, is worth practically as much as the coin which was melted; the silver is not, as there is not $1 worth of bullion in a silver dollar, or of minor coin. For notes there is no remedy, if they are reduced to ashes. If they are not entirely destroyed, the treasury will redeem as much as can be deciphered.

William Morgan.

H. S., Palmyra, Ill., asks: "What became of the notorious John Morgan, who, it is said, once belonged to the Free Masons?"

You are in error as to the name. John Morgan was the notorious rebel guerrilla. The Morgan you mean was William. He was a native of Batavia, Genesee county, N. Y., and in 1826 declared his intention of publishing a book containing the secrets of the Masonic order. He was arrested for debt, and on his release was hurried to a close carriage and taken to Niagara; he was never afterward heard from. It was believed he had been thrown in the Niagara river by members of the order, to prevent the threatened exposure. The affair created tremendous excitement, and led to strong opposition to the Masonic order, some of whom finally reserved among the most progressive men. An Anti-Masonic political party was formed, which lasted till about 1836. The fate of Morgan has never been ascertained.

John B. Gough's Last Words.

C. T., Gridley, Ill., writes: "In the Question Bureau of THE BLADE of December 12, you ask for the last words of John B. Gough. The last sentence accredited to him by the press is as follows: 'Young man, make your record clear.'"

Another correspondent sends the following, which is not Gough's last utterance, but what he requested should be cut on his monument, which was done:

"I can desire nothing better for this great country than that a barrier high as heaven should be raised between the polluted lips of the children and the intoxicating cup; strong and determined hands against whatever will defile the body, pollute the mind, or harden the heart against God and His truth."

Who Killed Gen. Ross.

P. B. F., Toledo, O., answers the inquiry for the names of the two mechanics who killed Gen. Ross with the following quotation from Lossing: "Gen. Ross was mortally wounded by one of two young mechanics, natives of Maryland, belonging to the Asquith's rifle corps, who had both fought in the battle of Bladensburg. Their names were Daniel Wells and Henry C. McComas. They were concealed in a hollow, and fired the fatal shot when Ross was passing on a little knoll near them." P. B. F. says: "They were afterwards killed in the same skirmish that had proved so fatal to the British commander."

Washington's Church—Commodore Perry.

P. O. H., ——, O.: 1.—George Washington was a member of the Church of England, which, after the Revolution, became the present Protestant church. 2.—After the battle of Lake Erie, Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry cooperated with Gen. Harrison's army in aiding to recapture Detroit, and at the end of 1813 he gave up his command. Congress voted him a gold medal for his services. He was appointed captain of the frigate Iowa in 1814. In March, 1810, he was appointed to the command of a squadron for a cruise on the coast of Colombia, South America. In July he ascended the Orinoco river, where he was attacked with yellow fever, of which he died.

Lincoln's Religious Views.

B. F. H., Westville, Ind.: Abraham Lincoln appears not to have had any church affiliations. That he had a fixed belief in God is evident from his Thanksgiving proclamations and the references in other of his state papers to the Almighty. He attended a Presbyterian church while President, and his wife was a member of that denomination.—Don't ask for replies "in the next issue of THE BLADE," because, from the nature of the case, we can not do this. The matter for this department is always put in type a week before the date of the paper in which it appears, and often we are compelled to hold answers over for one or two weeks from lack of room.

Rev. Lyman Beecher.

W. P., Ammsville, Ore.: Rev. Lyman Beecher, an eminent Presbyterian divine, was born at New Haven, Conn., in 1775. He devoted himself to theology, and, after holding the pastorate of Congregational churches at Litchfield and Boston, in 1832 went to Lane Theological seminary at Cincinnati, Ohio. He was an original abolitionist and a temperance reformer. He died at Brooklyn, N. Y., January 1863. He was three times married, and the father of thirteen children, several of whom have risen to fame—Henry Ward, Edward, Charles, and Thomas K., as preachers, and Catherine and Harriet (Mrs. Stowe) as authors.

Christian Work.

Missionary, Toledo, O., asks: "Will you please inform a young man who is an earnest Christian, and desirous of devoting his time and talents for the salvation of souls, what course he can take to engage in such work, either in this or another city? Has had some experience, and is willing to do any missionary work, no matter how humble it may seem."

We should advise that he call upon Gen. Slevin, city missionary, or upon the pastor of his own church. There should be no lack of work for such a man in any city.

"Free Cities" of Germany.

J. A. M., Parker, Kan.: The "Free Cities" is the name given to Hamburg, Bremen, Lübeck and Frankfort-on-the-Main, which are three of the seventeen states and members of the German Confederation. They were the survivors of the once numerous "Imperial" cities, or cities not subject to any superior authority, except that of the old Empire direct. Of the four, Hamburg, Bremen and Lübeck still retain their privileges under the reconstituted German Empire of 1871; but Frankfort was annexed to Prussia in 1866.

Widow's Pension.

"Idonia," Palatine, W. Va., writes: "My mother tried to get an agent to get her a widow's pension, but as my father was drowned, he said that she could not get one. Do you not think she could get it by applying to the Commissioner of Pensions?"

If your father was drowned while in the army, before his discharge, she is entitled to a pension. Take the advice of some honest pension agent, or of a lawyer familiar with the pension laws, as to whether she is entitled under them to a pension, or ask the Commissioner of Pensions, as you suggest.

It was "Pigeon's Ranch or "Apache Canon."

D. H. R., Co. F, 1st Colo. Cav., writes: "C. E. Stevens Point, Wis., asks for information in regard to the battle of 'Pigeon's Canon,' New Mexico. The battle of Pigeon's Ranch took place on March 26, 1862, and the battle of Apache Canon on March 27, 1862. Pigeon's Ranch is 30 miles from Santa Fe, and Apache Canon 25 miles from the same place. The Colorado Volunteers and Regulars took part in both."

Miscellaneous.

J. O. M., Gallagher, O.: We have not a copy of the poem.

Eros, Paulding, O.: Edgar Saltus wrote the book you name.

Mrs. H., Traer, Iowa: Dr. Tanner, the faster, is still living, we think.

J. B., Joy, O.: Any school geography will give you all the political divisions of Europe.

"Tony," ——: We do not know any method of removing writing from the blanks in a printed form so that it can be used again.

D. S., Fort Robinson, Neb.: We cannot undertake to discuss diseases and their treatment. Consult a good physician.

A. L. M., Crawfordsville, Ind: The author of "The Follett Curse" does not wish his name known at present. A letter will be forwarded to him if sent to us.

R. W. G., Clarkson, Neb.: The new states and their capitals are: South Dakota, Pierre; North Dakota, Bismarck; Montana, Helena; Washington, Olympia.

M. G. K., Adrian, Kan: You will find a full explanation of the Australian system of voting in the Bureau of October 94, and a history of it in last week's number.

F. S., Lennox, S. D.: We do not know where there is a monument to Gen. Custer, nor how many freighters were killed in the Indian war in which he lost his life.

A. W., Shields, O.: The story of Jules Verne you mention is entirely fictitious. So is the voyage mentioned. Greely's Arctic explorations have been published in book form.

A. H. D., Ashland, Ill.: 1.—Onions are imported from the Bermuda islands. 2.—Thomas Jefferson Jordan has some fine cattle at his farm, Ellerslie-on-Hudson, near Rhinecliff, N. Y. 3.—The oleomargarine bill was passed three or four years ago. We have not the vote.

H. A., ——, Kan.: 1.—We do not think the principle of "marriage endowment" companies is sound one. 2.—Incorporation of a firm does not add to its reliability.

A. C. L., Martinsville, Mo.: We are not familiar with the marriage laws of the 42 states in the Union, and do not know whether any of them allow the marriage of first cousins.

A. E. P., Hampton, Ind.: 1.—The only way to get to be a reporter on a newspaper is to apply to the editor in person. 2.—Short-hand is not a necessity to an ordinary reporter. 3.—Consult a lawyer.

D. M. C., Pleasantville, O.: We do not recall Garfield's demonstration of the Pythagorean proposition in geometry. Probably the professor of mathematics at Hiram College, Hiram, Portage Co., Ohio, can give it you.

W. E. M., Youngstown, O.: We know nothing whatever of the re-discovered art of tempering copper beyond the item in the Weekly BLADE of Nov. 28. We doubt the process is kept a secret by the inventor, in order that he may sell it.

H. L. H., Waterloo, Iowa: 1.—The Chinese exclusion law simply bars out all Chinese from the United States, except the diplomatic corps and other agents of the Chinese government. 2.—This has been answered in the Bureau within two or three weeks.

Inquirer, Hughesville, Va.: Compulsory education is still enforced in Prussia and some other European countries. It has never been fully tried in this country. Several states have so-called compulsory education laws, but they are inadequately enforced.

E. M., Manmee, O.: There is usually a few cents' difference in the results obtained by the ordinary rule for partial payments and by the mercantile rule; but if there was $49 difference even in your results, you certainly made some mistake in the calculation.

J. V. W., Hamburg, N. C.: We can not undertake to furnish data for debates, but the warrior fights for his country's independence, her rights and liberties, which might be lost to him. All the great generals of ancient and modern times are examples of warriors.

M. M. B., Selbyville, W. Va.: 1.—Where the apostrophe alone is used to denote the possessive case, the word is pronounced exactly as it would be without the apostrophe. How on earth did you ever get the opposite idea? Example: "For conscience' sake" is not pronounced "conscience's."

G. W. Z., Green Bay, Wis.: "Nydia," the blind girl of Pompeii (not Troy), is a character in Bulwer's novel, "The Last Days of Pompeii," published first in 1835. Nydia is not a historic character, but the blind flower-girl has been made a frequent subject in painting and sculpture, because of the beauty of her character as drawn by the novelist.

C. M., Fredericksdale, O.: 1.—The oleomargarine bill was passed some three or four years ago; we have not the vote on it. 2.—Tea culture was tried some twelve years ago on an experimental farm in the South, by the United States government; it was a failure. 3.—The sheep is spoken of as having "a golden hoof," because a flock of sheep increase the fertility of land on which they are pastured.

G. C., Knoxville, Ill.: 1.—So far as we can ascertain, there is nothing living on the moon. The mountains are not powerful enough to distinguish them, if there were beings on the moon, but it has no atmosphere and no water, and hence life, such as we have on the earth, can not exist. The largest refracting telescope is that in Lick observatory, in California. 3.—We do not know which town is the larger.

Subscriber, Vellisca, Iowa: To make striped glass marbles, portions of red-hot glass, of different colors, are laid together, like a bunch of cigars; it is then drawn into a long rod, and bits are pinched off, as you would twist a bit of a piece of taffy; these are then dipped in clear glass, to give a coating, and rolled between smooth metal plates, to give them a true spherical form. 2.—The name of Don Quixote was pronounced by the Spaniards "Ke-ho-te," accent on the second.

Talmage's Sermon.

A SERMON NEAR CANA OF GALILEE.

Christ's First Manhood Miracle—"The Unconscious Water Saw Its God and Blushed"—Religion and Happiness Go Hand in Hand—His Power to Save.

CANA, Dec. 22.—The Rev. T. De Witt Talmage, D.D., preached here to-day on "A Marriage Feast," taking for his text John ii, 10: "Thou hast kept the good wine until now." He said:

Standing not far off from the demolished town of what was once called Cana of Galilee, I bethink myself of our Lord's first manhood miracle which has been the astonishment of the ages. My visit last week to that place makes vivid in my mind the beautiful occurrence in Christ's ministry. My text brings us to a wedding in that village. It is a wedding in common life, two plain people having pledged each other, hand and heart, and their friends having come in for congratulation. The joy is not the less because there is no pretension. In each other they find all the future they want.

"Well, we are to-day at the wedding in Cana, of Galilee. Jesus and his mother have been invited. It is evident that there are more people there than were expected. Either some people have come who were not invited, or more invitations have been sent out than it was supposed would be accepted. Of course, there is not enough supply of wine. You know that there is nothing more embarrassing to a housekeeper than a scant supply. Jesus sees the embarrassment, and he comes up immediately to relieve it. He sees standing six water pots. He orders the servants to fill them with water, then waves his hand over the water, and immediately it is wine—real wine. Taste of it, and see for yourselves; no logwood in it, no strychnine in it, but first-rate wine. It will not now be diverted to the question so often discussed in my own country, whether it is right to drink wine. I am describing the scene as it was. When God makes wine, he makes the very best wine, and one hundred and thirty gallons of it standing around in these water pots; wine so good that the ruler of the feast will taste it and say: "Why, this is really better than anything we have had! Thou hast kept the good wine until now." Beautiful miracle! A prize was offered to the person who should write the best essay about the miracle in Cana. Long manuscripts were presented in the competition, but a poet won the prize by this one line descriptive of the miracle:

The unconscious water saw its God, and blushed.

What the Miracle Teaches.

We learn from this miracle, in the first place, that Christ has sympathy with housekeepers. You might have thought that Jesus would have said: "I cannot be bothered with household deficiency of wine. It is not for me. Lord of heaven and earth, to become caterer to this feast. I have vaster things than this to attend to." Not so said Jesus. The wine gave out, and Jesus, by miraculous power, came to the rescue. Does there ever come a scant supply in your household? Have you to make a very close calculation? Is it hard work for you to carry on things decently and respectably? If so, don't sit down and cry. Don't go out and fret; but go to him who stood in the house in Cana of Galilee. Pray in the parlor! Pray in the kitchen! Let there be no room in all your house unconsecrated by the voice of prayer.

I learn also from this miracle that Christ does things in abundance. I think a small supply of wine would have made up for the deficiency. But certainly they must have had enough for half of the guests. One gallon of wine will do; certainly five gallons will be enough; certainly ten. But Jesus goes on, and he gives them thirty gallons, and forty gallons, and fifty gallons, and seventy gallons, and one hundred gallons, and one hundred and thirty gallons of the very best wine.

The Creator's Generosity.

It is just like him! Doing everything on the largest and most generous scale. Does Christ, our creator, go forth to make leaves, he makes them by the whole forest full; notched like the fern, or silvered like the aspen, or broad like the palm; thickets in the tropics, Oregon forest. Does he go forth to make flowers, he makes plenty of them; they flame from the hedge, they hang from the top of the grapevine in blossoms, they roll in the blue wave of the violets, they toss their white surf into the spirea—enough for every child's hand a flower, enough to make for every brow a chaplet, enough with beauty to cover up the ghastliness of all the graves.

Does Jesus, our Lord, provide redemption, it is not a little salvation for this one, a little for that, and a little for the other; but enough for all—"Whosoever will, let him come." Each man an ocean full for himself. Promises for the young, promises for the old, promises for the lowly, promises for the blind, for the halt, for the outcast, for the abandoned. Pardon for all, comfort for all, mercy for all, heaven for all; not merely a cupful of Gospel supply, but one hundred and thirty gallons.

I remark further, Jesus does not shadow the joys of others with his own griefs. He might have sat down in that wedding and said: "I have so much trouble, so much poverty, so much persecution, and the cross is coming; I shall not rejoice, and the gloom of my face and of my sorrows shall be cast over all this group." So said not Jesus. He said to himself: "Here are two young souls starting out in married life. Let it be a joyful occasion. I will hide my own griefs. I will kindle their joy." There are many not so wise as that.

He Wants Us to be Comfortable.

I learn from this miracle that Christ is not impatient with the luxuries of life. It was not necessary that they should have that wine. Hundreds of people have been married without any wine. We do not read that any of the other provisions fell short. When Christ made the wine it was not a necessity. But a positive luxury. I do not believe that he wants us to eat hard bread, and sleep on hard mattresses, unless we like them the best. I think, if circumstances will allow, we have a right to the luxuries of dress, the luxuries of diet, and the luxuries of residence. There is no more religion in an old coat than in a new one. We can serve God drawn by golden-plated harness as certainly as when we go afoot. Jesus Christ will dwell with us under a fine ceiling as well as under a thatched roof; and when you can get wine made out of water, drink as much of it as you can.

What is the difference between a Chinese mud hovel and an American home? What is the difference between the rough bear skins of the Russian boor and the cuticle of an American gentleman? None, except in one, except that which the Gospel of Christ, directly or indirectly, has caused. When Christ shall have vanquished all the world, I suppose every house will be a mansion, and every garment a robe, and every horse an arch necked courser, and every carriage a glittering vehicle, and every man a king, and every woman a queen, and the whole earth a paradise; the glories of the natural world harmonizing with the glories of the material world, until the very bells of the horses shall jingle the praises of the Lord.

I learn, further, from this miracle, that Christ has no impatience with festal joy, otherwise he would not have accepted the invitation to that wedding. He certainly would not have done that which increased the hilarity. There may have been many in that room who were happy, but there was not one of them that did so much to make the joy of the wedding party as Christ himself. He was the chief of the banqueters. When the wine gave out he supplied it; and so, I take it, he will not deny us the joys that are positively festal.

I think the children of God have more right to laugh than any other people, and to clap their hands as loudly. There is not a single joy denied them that is given to any other people. Christianity does not clip the wings of the soul. Religion does not frost the flowers. What is Christianity? I take it to be, simply, a proclamation from the throne of God of emancipation for all the enslaved; and if a man accepts the terms of that proclamation, and becomes free, has he not a right to be merry.

He Comes in the Hour of Extremity.

I remark again that Christ comes to us in the hour of extremity. He knew the wine was giving out before there was any embarrassment or mortification. Why did he not perform the miracle sooner? Why wait until it was all gone, and no help could come from any source, and then come in and perform the miracle? This is Christ's way; and when he did come in, at the hour of extremity, he made first rate wine, so that they cried out, "Thou hast kept the good wine until now." Jesus in the hour of extremity! He seems to prefer that hour.

You mourned over your sins. You could not find the way out. You sat down and said: "God will not be merciful. He has cast me off," but in that, the darkest hour of your history, light broke from the throne, and Jesus said: "O, wanderer, come home. I have seen all thy sorrows. In this, the hour of thy extremity, I offer thee pardon and everlasting life!"

Trouble came. You were almost torn to pieces by that trouble. You braced yourself up against it. You said: "I will be a Stoic and will not care;" but before you had got through making the resolution it broke down under you. You felt that all your resources were gone, and then Jesus came. "In the fourth watch of the night," the Bible says, "Jesus came walking on the sea." Why did he not come in the first watch? or in the second watch? or in the third watch? I do not know. He came in the fourth, and gave deliverance to his disciples. Jesus in the last extremity.

I wonder if it will be so in our very last extremity.

TOLEDO BLADE.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1889.

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OUR "TEA SET" OFFER.

We have received a number of orders already for THE BLADE tea set, and for the toilet set, advertised on the fifth page of this issue, and have been fairly deluged with letters of inquiry concerning it. For the benefit of all inquirers, we wish to say:

It is not a toy tea set, but the pieces are all of full size. The shape and pattern are exclusive for THE BLADE. The material is the best grade of American-made ironstone china. The decoration is in the style now so fashionable, and as good as can be found anywhere.

There are eighty pieces in the set, as follows: 12 breakfast plates, 12 tea plates, 12 cups, 12 saucers, 12 fruit (or sauce) dishes, 12 "individual" butter dishes, 2 cake plates, a teapot and cover, a sugar bowl and cover, a cream pitcher and a bowl.

The toilet set is of the same kind of ware. It consists of twelve pieces, ordinary size of such articles. The set consists of a large water pitcher and wash-basin, slop-jar and cover, chamber and cover soap dish, drainer and cover, small pitcher for drinking-water, mug and vase.

They are packed, each set in a box, and shipped direct from the factory to the purchaser, upon our order. The box can go by freight or express, but the charges are lighter by freight, though it takes longer for it to come.

Read the advertisement on the fifth page of this issue, and note the remarkably easy terms upon which you can obtain either of these. The conditions there given are the *only* ones on which you can get them. There never was a more useful and valuable premium given with any paper than these. THE BLADE has never made as good an offer, save on the sewing machine.

WE WILL PASTE.

In reply to an request for the opinions of THE BLADE'S subscribers as to whether the paper should be pasted or unpasted, we have received a shoal of replies. The majority is in favor of pasting very largely—at least nine out of every ten wishing it pasted. Hence we will continue to send the paper pasted. One of the best replies is from Portland, Mich., which says:

Paste the paper, by all means. Let the one who holds it for the time being read aloud to the rest of the family.

OUR SERIALS.

Prof. EBERS'S Biblical story of "Joshua" concludes next week, and "The Demagogue," Mr. LOCKE'S splendid serial, will come to an end at or near the date for the beginning of ELIZABETH STUART PHELPS'S new story, "Come Forth." The space now occupied by "Joshua" will be given to "News of the Week," enabling us to cover more fully the news field.

"EACH HAND TAKES A PROFIT."

In a recent article in these columns we mentioned that ordinary calico sells in Toledo at 5 cents a yard. A subscriber in Illinois writes us that this does him no good, as the only store in the village nearest him sells common calico at 12 cents a yard, and he thinks the tariff ought to be reduced. The reduction of the duty would not give him his calico a penny cheaper. The 12-cent price is not due to the tariff, but to the unconscionable store-keeper, who, having no competition, marks the price up.

Ordinary calico sells for 5 and 6 cents here, and the best at 8 cents. We have no doubt the grade the storekeeper referred to sells at 12 cents can be bought in any city or large town for 5 or 6 cents. The fact is too often overlooked that the middle men between producer and consumer increase the price to the latter. Every hand through which an article passes must have its profit; and in the case of the village store cited, the profit demanded is exorbitant. This is a matter not dependent on the tariff, nor will cheapening the first cost cheapen the price to the consumer unless there is competition.

We thought it was about time for the Democratic press to begin to harp concerning Mr. BLAINE again. This time the twanging jangle is to the following effect:

James G. Blaine will be a candidate for the Republican nomination in 1892. This is stated upon authority which, if it could be given, would be at once recognized as entitled to credence. For the past year Mr. Blaine's health has steadily improved. The secretary is now satisfied that there is no chronic ailment to stand in the way of his political plans. He feels that he is good for eight or ten years more of active life, and that no can safely look forward to a Presidential campaign and a Presidential term.

Two years ago Mr. Blaine took a despondent view of his physical condition. Travel and rest in foreign lands had failed entirely to do the work of recuperation which he anticipated. He came back to the United States, went into the campaign, and, carefully feeling his way, did what he thought his powers would stand. He experienced no ill effect. Then he entered upon his secretaryship. At first he had some misgivings, and talked of staying only a year or two at the head of the department. But gradually strength has returned, and with it the old-time elasticity of spirit.

Mr Blaine has found that he is far better off in active public life than in retirement. He is pleased immensely with the chance that has come upon him. The old languor and indifference have gone. The Blaine of to-day is the Blaine of six years ago in ambition and in hope. The secretary knows that his most intimate friends have begun to plan for 1892, and he does not forbid. He listens and is interested. With the continuance of his present improved health he will be a candidate for the nomination.

CHAIRMAN CONGER, of the Ohio state Republican committee, advances a reason for the defeat of Governor FORAKER which is worth considering. Being asked if the ballot-box contract forgery was the cause of the governor's defeat, Mr CONGER said:

It had some influence, undoubtedly. For one thing, it solidified the Democrats, just as the Sunday liquor-closing movement solidified the saloon element. But what hurt Judge Foraker more than either is a matter that is really to his credit. When Hoadly went out of office the state was nearly bankrupt. Foraker found a great deal of property was evading taxation. He put $90,000,000 on the taxable property list of the state. It was mostly the property of bankers and capitalists who had evaded taxation. We find now that they voted and worked and spent money to defeat him.

IT is a fact of some interest that the widow of JEFF DAVIS is entitled to a pension from the United States government, under the Mexican war pension law, for the services her husband rendered in that struggle. That law contains a clause excepting from its operations "any person while under the political disabilities imposed by the fourteenth amendment to the constitution." DAVIS was among these; but it was decided some time ago that this provision does not debar their widows, and several pensions to them have been granted. MRS. DAVIS only needs to make application in order to obtain hers. Whether she will do so is a question.

THE state debt of Pennsylvania has been reduced $881,950 within the past year. This shows one reason why the people of Pennsylvania prefer Republican rule.

THE Ohio Senatorship is not a pearl, but it appears to be of great price, however.

THE RUM TRAFFIC THE BUSINESS MAN'S FOE.

There is a business side to the liquor question as well as a moral side; and though Rum-selling is not a legitimate business, it has an important bearing upon all kinds of retail trade—a bearing too often overlooked by the very men who are themselves the most interested. It is an important matter to them, because it affects their pockets—and we all know that the pocket-nerve is a very sensitive one. It is touched constantly by the Rum traffic; for it is perfectly safe to say that every cent spent in intoxicants is taken from the retail dealers of the city; and it is worse than wasted, because it does the purchaser harm instead of good. It is not only a dead waste of the money spent, but it incapacitates the user from earning more. No confirmed drunkard is a good or reliable workman. He cannot do as much work as a temperate man, nor is its quality as good, if his line of labor lies in any occupation in which the quality of the product is taken into consideration.

Look about you, and you will note that the regular drunkard never lives in a good house; that he never owns his residence, nor pays rent promptly for the rented tenement he occupies. What stands in the way of his either owning his own, or of his paying rent promptly for a decent residence? Ask him, and he will reply that he is "too poor." But his poverty is the result of his drinking habits; hence the real reason that he is living in a hired hovel is Rum—nothing else. The saloon, mercenary to the last degree, absorbs the money that would buy him a comfortable cottage, or pay the rent for a decent tenement for the occupancy of himself and his family. The lumber dealer, the hardware man, the carpenters, masons, painters, plasterers—in fact, all who are engaged in the building trades—are thus robbed by the saloon.

Did any one ever see a confirmed drunkard's family properly and healthfully fed? Never. The wife and children do not have food of the proper quality, nor enough of it, such as it is. Helpless dependents upon a drunken husband and father, they are compelled to live upon just enough to sustain life, and that of the coarsest and cheapest. They do not live, they merely exist. It is not because they wish to have scanty fare and poor food, but because they can get no better. The saloon robs them of what should enable them to do it; and it robs the butcher, the baker, the grocery man, the gardener, and all others who make the purveying of food their occupation, of the money that should buy proper food. The drunkard is their customer only for the cheapest and poorest of their stock. The saloon gets the bulk of his money.

Did you ever see a drunkard who wore decent clothes, or one whose family were comfortably, neatly and warmly clad? Never. They usually are dressed in airy rags in the warmer portion of the year, and during the winter shiver through the cold weather in garments utterly inadequate for their comfort. The children go in summer with bare feet, and in winter wear the cast-off foot-gear of happier and more fortunate ones. The drunkard is "too poor" to buy proper clothing. The money he should spend for such articles goes into the till of the saloon. That institution robs his family of the price of the garments necessary for their comfort, their respectability in appearance; it robs the dry-goods merchant, the clothing man, the deniers in boots and shoes. If it were not for the saloon, the money that is now wasted in Rum would be spent in part with them, for the proper dressing of the drinker and his family.

Shelter, food and clothing are necessities of life. The drunkard himself buys the poorest and cheapest of these things in order that he may have the more money to waste for Rum. As for the comforts of life—articles not absolutely required to sustain existence, but which stand next to them—such as books, carpets, pictures, periodicals, musical instruments, and the thousand and one things that fill the happy homes of our land—the drunkard's family must do without them, if they are not donated by charity. His wages all go over the bar of the saloon. It robs his family of the ordinary comforts of life, and robs the men who sell these things. If the saloon were wiped out, the money that the drinking man pays into it would partly reach their hands, in exchange for things to make his home comfortable and his family's lives pleasant.

It is clear that the saloon is a form of robbery. It robs the family of its victims of the necessaries and comforts the money wasted in Rum would buy; and it robs every legitimate business in the city of the money that would be paid for them. The saloon is the worst enemy of the business of any city. Consider how much money a saloon must take in daily, and multiply it by the number of saloons in the city; multiply this in turn by the 365 days in the year, and you will have before you the sum wasted in your own town or city through the Rum traffic. And it is to be remembered that the saloons prevent the earning of nearly as much money by destroying the capacity for work. The drunkard cannot do as good a day's work as a sober man, and he loses the time spent in his debauches, and in the inevitable "sobering up" process. As he goes on, and becomes more and more the slave of Rum, he becomes more and more incapable of steady labor, until he will not work at all except when he can in no other way obtain the Rum to satisfy his cravings.

And then if the business man will take into his calculation, besides this wholesale robbery of the community by the saloon, the entire cost of the crime and pauperism which is the direct result of the Rum curse—all of which is borne by himself and his fellow tax-payers—he will find a total which is so overwhelmingly large that it should cause him to reflect on what he can do to aid in the abolition of the saloon. There are strong moral arguments why he should join in the war upon the Rum traffic, to which we have not adverted in this article. We have confined the discussion to the direct cost, in dollars and cents, to the business man, of the Rum traffic; and we think it is clear to any observant man that, from the dollar and cent standpoint alone, not to speak of any higher motive, the business man, above all others, is the one who should exert himself most to

Pulverize the Rum Power.

M. LESIGNE, a French writer, has published a book which pretty effectually demolishes the romantic side of the story of JOAN OF ARC. He brings documentary proof to show that she did not save France from the English invaders at all; that the French had already roused themselves to expel the English, and did not need JOAN'S alleged "heavenly" message. The city of Orleans had repulsed the enemy before the girl appeared on the scene, and she exercised no decisive influence upon the war. M. LESIGNE says the French king merely used "her hysterical enthusiasm for the purpose of inspiring the weaker troops." His conclusion is that the Maid of Orleans was a hysterical, unbalanced young woman, who would to-day be considered insane and put in an asylum.

THE business situation is unfavorably affected by the exceptionally warm weather. The coal trade and the retail dealers in dry goods and boots and shoes are complaining of dull times. Collections are somewhat slow, and DUN'S agency reports that small failures are increasing in number. There is one thing to be remembered, however—more money remains in the hands of the people.

CHRISTMAS.

Once more the rolling year brings around the glad Christmas season, with its wealth of religious associations, its tender traditions of the joy of children, its annual lesson to humanity of "peace on earth, good will toward men." To us of the older generation, around whose knees cluster our own little ones, the joy and happiness with which they hail the great festival brings back recollections of the long-gone days—but how short a time it seems in memory's retrospect!—when we were children like them, happy in our ignorance of the carking cares, the anxieties and sorrows of manhood and womanhood. God bless the children! Would that we could shield them from the trials of maturer life as we do from the ills which beset their childish years!

To the religious mind, the high festival of the Christmas year is freighted with a deeper, a more precious meaning. It is the feast of the birth of the Redeemer, who shall save the world from its sins; the Intercessor, without whom man would be lost indeed, and the eternities, instead of being freighted with rich promise of eternal life, would be but a black abyss of despair, from whose verge the soul would shrink back affrighted. What matters it that the exact hour and day and month and year of the birth of the Child Wonderful is not known to a certainty? What matters it if the preponderance of proof be to the effect that His advent on this earthly scene was in the spring, and probably of the year B. C 3? For well on to two thousand years the Christian world has united in celebrating December 25 as the date of that event, and the day is now hallowed by centuries of association and worship and rejoicing. It matters not the day—the event itself is the thing which is celebrated, and one day is as good for that purpose as another.

To every one who has in his bosom a heart that beats responsive to the chord of humanity—a heart which thrills with joy when others rejoice, which beats in sympathy when his fellow-men mourn, the glorious Christmastide comes as a benediction, giving surcease from sorrow, and turning life into a scene of festal gladness. "Peace on earth, good will to men" was the heavenly pæan chanted by the angelic hosts as the bentific vision opened the portals of the unseen world to the awe-struck shepherds on the plains of Bethlehem, as they watched their flocks by night under the starry Judean skies; and it is the keynote of the symphony of rejoicing that fills the hearts and homes of Christendom now that the steady march of time has brought us again to the portals of the day we celebrate as the anniversary of the advent on earth of Him who was the first to preach the eternal brotherhood of man and Fatherhood of GOD.

Let every one who is an unit of the countless family groups around happy firesides, every one into whose soul and life enters the true meaning of the loving, yet solemn command, "Love one another," remember, amid the rejoicings and innocent mirth of this festal season, those, too numerous even in this fair land of ours, to whom Christmas is but a name. Let your remembrance go out to the hungry and weary, to the ragged children of the poor, sad even on the threshold of life because the heavy hand of poverty and privation is upon them, and the gaunt wolf of want peers in at the broken windows. Give out of the abundance of your own blessings to the poor and needy; make glad the day for the fatherless, and cause the widow's heart to sing for joy. Learn again the blessedness of giving, evince by your practice your belief in the fundamental doctrine of the religion preached by Him whose birth you celebrate with rejoicing, and extend your charity and care to those who are weary and heavy laden, remembering that "He that giveth unto the poor lendeth unto the Lord!"

GET A WATCH FREE!

The attention of all readers is directed to the offer on the Trenton watch, in the Publishers' Department, fifth page. It is an excellent watch, and none have so far been returned under our warranty. It is the very best cheap watch in the market. We have several thousands of these watches, which we bought to give away to club raisers. To any one sending us a club of ten subscribers to the Weekly BLADE, and $10, we will send one of these watches free. We did not buy them to sell, but if any subscriber wishes one, we will send him the Weekly BLADE one year, and a Trenton watch, for $5. The watch retails in the jewelry stores at $5. Get up a club; you can earn yourself a good watch in a few hours.

THE New York *World* is Democratic, but it is fighting BRICE'S candidacy for the Ohio Senatorship in a way that must make he Nickel-plate statesman shiver. It said, Thursday, in reference to his ineligibility because of lack of residence in Ohio:

When qualifying as bondsman for his aqueduct contractors in this city he gave his residence here, and it is held that by various acts he has regarded himself as a citizen of New York. At all events his interests are here, and these interests are of a corporate character. His friends are capitalists, and he is identified with trusts and monopolies.

The Democratic party cannot afford to reinforce the coteries of railway millionaires in the Senate. To do so will be to bring reproach upon the entire organization. Cannot the Ohio Democracy protect itself from the outrage which is threatened? Is there no Jeffersonian virtue left in the party?

NOTWITHSTANDING the bitter opposition that exists against civil service reform it is not believed that Congress will in any way curtail the powers of the Civil Service commission. That the operation of the civil service law has greatly improved the government service cannot be denied, and it can safely be said that most of the opponents to the reform are men who either fail or refuse to understand it. The Republican party is committed to a preservation of this reform and the present Congress cannot afford to repeal the law, or to starve the Civil Service commission out of existence by refusing to appropriate money for its support.

THE Central American republics have adopted a tentative scheme for consolidation into the United States of Central America. The scheme of union is to be effective for ten years, and contemplates common citizenship, untrammelled trade between the different states, a gradual unification of laws and judiciary systems, and probably common coinage. If the ten-year experiment is a success, the five states will unite permanently on the federal system. Then we will have the United States of America, United States of Central America, the United States of Columbia, and the United States of Brazil.

THE captain of a Portland, Maine, whaling steamer just arrived from the waters about Behring straits, brings news of the discovery of an unknown land in the Arctic ocean, north of Alaska. The story is that a vessel of the whaling fleet, venturing much farther north than any others, discovered land not marked on any chart. A gale drove the vessel far north along the shore of the land, but the season was so late that the men did not stop to explore, desiring to get south as soon as the gale subsided.

WE should go slow in the project of Cuban annexation. That island may be the "Gem of the Antilles," but it would prove a very costly gem for Uncle SAM to wear on his shirt-front. Its debt is about $85,000,000; its population is half negroes, and the other half Spaniards and Spanish creoles—very difficult elements to assimilate. It is doubtful if Cuba is worth all it would cost.

RAISE CLUBS!

We are now prepared to offer greater inducements to persons raising clubs than ever before. We not only offer greater inducements than we have ever previously, but one that has a good deal of money for those who will get up clubs. Read the following offers:

For a club of 10 subscribers, at $1 each, we will give a Trenton Watch, worth $5—a *guaranteed watch*.

For a club of 15 subscribers, at $1 each, a china tea set.

For a club of 20 subscribers, at $1 each, a china chamber set, or a Blade cook stove.

The tea set, chamber set and cook stove are the same that have already been described in our columns.

But better than any of the above is our *cash payment* for a club, as set forth in confidential printed instructions which we mail to any one on application. This offers the largest price ever paid for clubs by any paper in the world, either this year or in years gone by.

We want *thousands* of persons to undertake the work of raising clubs for THE BLADE during this month and January. It will pay any one to write for our terms.

As an aid in raising clubs, if you will send a list of persons who do not take THE BLADE, we will mail each one a sample copy of the paper. Address "THE BLADE, Toledo, Ohio."

THE AUSTRALIAN BALLOT.

It is talked about Columbus that the Democrats intend to attempt to clear their record in Ohio by passing a ballot reform law—one embracing the Australian system—and that a bill for this purpose is now being framed. The present registration and election law is so good a measure that they are jealous of the Republican prestige derived therefrom, and they intend to redeem themselves, if possible, by putting the Australian system into operation in this state.

If they do it, and do it honestly, we bid them God speed. The present law works admirably, but it applies only to seventeen cities of the state. There is crying need of reform in the country precincts. There is fraud in many of them, especially in solid Bourbon counties. If the Australian system is adopted, with a representative from both parties among the judges at every precinct, we shall have cleaner elections.

But can the Ohio Democrats be depended upon to give us an honest law? We do not know, but we have grave doubts on the subject. However, we shall be glad to welcome the Australian system in Ohio, and if there is a loophole for fraud the next legislature, which is sure to be Republican, will amend it in the interests of honesty and strict impartiality. The recent municipal election in Boston was held under the Australian system, and it resulted in a heavy Republican majority, because the opportunity for Democratic fraud and repeating was cut off. The *Herald* of that city says:

The Australian ballot law has again proved itself a most quiet and orderly election could not have been asked for. The voters had no trouble in expressing their personal preference, in spite of the multiplicity of candidates. As we have remarked elsewhere, it afforded an opportunity for independent voting that was largely taken advantage of, a fact which should make itself apparent to the leaders of the political parties, and lead them to realize that it is not enough to dictate nominations, since under the present system of voting the loyalty of their followers may be easily strained to the point of revolt.

We regret to see the Cincinnati *Commercial Gazette* opposing the Australian system. That paper is most unfortunate in its attempts at leadership of the Republican party. Its late exploiting of the Wood ballot-box forgery and the consequent disaster at the late election should deter it from so soon attempting another piece of political damphoolishness. The Australian system is the best election method yet devised. It has worked well wherever tried, and the honest masses demand it. It is certainly in line with Republican principles—a free ballot and an honest count; and no Republican paper can afford to oppose it. If the Democrats enact such a law, we shall be heartily glad. And the *Commercial Gazette* will find that its opposition will cut the same figure that Dame PARTINGTON did with her broom, trying to sweep back the Atlantic Ocean.

DETROIT RIVER BRIDGE.

The railway interests at Detroit are trying to push through Congress the scheme of a bridge over the Detroit river at that city, in spite of a strongly adverse report from the United States engineer corps. The bill should be killed. The commerce of the Great Lakes is enormous now and rapidly increasing. Lake navigation is the one great rival of the east and west railway traffic, and its competition keeps freight rates at a much lower figure than would otherwise be possible. Thus there is saved an enormous aggregate sum every year to the business interests of the country, and especially to the farmers of the West and Northwest, who are getting very low prices for their grain anyhow, and who would get less if it were not for the low rate of grain freights eastward, due entirely to lake transportation.

The Detroit river is the link between the upper and the lower lakes, and all water commerce between the two must pass through it. Its navigation, owing to its strong current, is none too safe and easy now, and a railway bridge at Detroit would prove a great obstruction. The lake traffic passing through the Detroit river is the greatest single stream of water transportation in the world, and is growing greater each year. Congress should not cater to the interests of one or two railway lines to the detriment of the great interests involved in our lake commerce. The lake shipping interests, the business men and the farmers of the great West who participate in the benefits of its competition, should rouse themselves, and set up active opposition to the scheme at once.

SOME of the Democratic papers have criticized the lines of inquiry marked out by Superintendent PORTER, in charge of the Census bureau. They think he wants too much information. They think he should limit his work to a bare enumeration of population. Doubtless they know that a full record of the progress of the nation during the past ten years will cast a serious reflection on the Democracy, for it has contributed nothing which assisted that progress. Every policy under which our great prosperity has been accomplished was shaped by Republican legislation, and its execution commenced by Republican executives. The inquiries proposed by Superintendent PORTER will show that this prosperity has been due to the protective tariff, which has remained in force notwithstanding the efforts of a Democratic House to break it down, and the attempts of a Democratic executive to defeat its operation by improper rulings. Let the inquiry go on.

REPRESENTATIVE WIKE'S bill to re-establish the odious income tax, as a step to absolute free trade, will meet with no favor in any quarter. Even the free traders object to the exacting and inquisitorial income tax. We had enough of it during and after the war.

THE South Carolina legislature has repealed the state law giving the negroes equal rights in public conveyances, hotels and places of amusement with white people. The law has been practically a dead letter for years, and it is just as well it is repealed.

HENRY W. GRADY.

The death of HENRY W. GRADY, editor of the Atlanta *Constitution*, removes from earth the brightest and best-known political writer in the South. Mr. GRADY was a talented man, an eloquent speaker, and fairly a representative man of what he was pleased to term the "New South." His position on the Southern question was logically an untenable one, but it was one that is held by a great many Southern people, of whom he was the spokesman and defender.

While he accepted the abolition of negro slavery as a good thing, on the whole, for the people of his section, he never omitted an opportunity of lauding the "Lost Cause," or of glorifying the men identified with the unsuccessful effort to create an aristocratic republic, in which the voting power should be in the hands of white men, resting upon the corner-stone of human slavery. The attempt failed, and slavery was swept away; but Mr. GRADY never in reality accepted the war amendments to the constitution, but devoted his energies to constructing a social system which would carry out the idea of the "Lost Cause"—that of the rule of the whites, denying to the negro his right to the ballot, and forcing him to a status not far removed from peonage.

That this is a mere transition stage, impossible to be continued permanently, Mr. GRADY ought to have seen, but he did not. It is impossible to believe him anything but sincere, or that the numerous class of which he was the mouthpiece are anyless sincere than he. But the true "New South" will be one in which the negro's right to the ballot shall be as freely granted and as sacredly respected as it is in the North, and the true friends of that section are those who recognize that the present status must not, can not, continue, and who try to prepare for the new era by the education of the negro to a due sense of the responsibilities that rest upon him as a citizen.

It is to be lamented that Mr. GRADY'S great talents were not directed in this line, the only possible one to peace and prosperity. The practical nullification of the constitutional guarantees to citizenship, the curtailment of liberty of speech in the South, all the manifestations of that intense sectionalism that is the great evil the curse of slavery left after it, cannot last. They must yield to the resistless march of enlightenment and national spirit. We regret the death of Mr. GRADY, and mourn that he did not frankly accept the new order of things in its entirety, instead of trying to patch up the fragments of a political and social system that fell in ruins when its corner-stone, slavery, was torn away by the red hand of war.

THE RUSSIAN INFLUENZA.

The "grippe," or Russian influenza, or epidemic catarrh, or whatever may be its proper designation, which is sweeping over Europe, has appeared at several points in the United States, and will doubtless assume epidemic form here. Dr. EDSON, of the New York board of health, thus describes the symptoms as exhibited in the family first attacked in that city:

The ages of those attacked range from 50 years to 4 years, all but two little children being over 21 years. No cause of the attack was apparent; none of the family have recently arrived from Europe, or associated or been thrown in contact with recent arrivals or any one suffering from the disease. Certain ones recently received letters from Europe.

The head of the house, a man about 40 years old, still in convalescence, says that although he received letters constantly from Europe, no one in his office had been affected. The young lady who was the first one attacked received a letter from Berlin the day before the attack came on.

The first case occurred December 11, the second on the following day, and the third on the 13th. The fourth and fifth cases occurred on December 14, and the sixth and seventh on the 15th. The first symptoms were sudden faintness, chill, and marked prostration. Then succeeded headache and a general feeling of malaise, followed by acute coryza, pharyngitis, and laryngitis, winding up with bronchitis. Temperature from 100 to 105.

An examination showed the patients to be about as sick as persons with a bad cold, using handkerchiefs freely, voice thick and nasal, considerable stiffness and congestion of the mucous membrane of the nose and eyes. The duration of the attack was two days and upwards, two of the family having resumed work, while the first one attacked it yet confined to the house.

The patients state that the catarrhal symptoms are nothing in comparison with the great feeling of prostration, etc. The young lady first attacked states that she has suffered from bad fever, but has never had an attack that could be compared in severity with the present one. If the disease in question is influenza it is of a very mild type, especially as far as the catarrhal symptoms are concerned. The symptoms that point the most to influenza are those of the onset and those referable to the system generally.

A Chicago physician, writing to the *Inter-Ocean*, says the symptoms recorded by Dr. EDSON, agree exactly with those of an influenza of which he has had a number of cases lately. He says:

No two cases are exactly alike. In some the catarrhal symptoms do not appear until the patient has suffered several days with rheumatic pains and fever, muscular soreness, etc. In some severe gastro-intestinal pains, vomiting and diarrhœa are the first to appear; in other cases these symptoms appear last. As well as the severe catarrhal symptoms of the nose, eyes, and throat. In a few cases a diphtheritic membrane appears in the throat, sufficient to cause alarm. An intense bursting headache is common. Some cases simulate pleurisy, but this is caused by pain in the intercostal muscles. Many physicians inform me they have had a large number of cases.

It may not be inappropriate to add that I have found the most appropriate remedy for the painful symptoms to be antipyrin, in doses of three to five grains every hour or two. For the catarrhal symptom iodide of arsenic 1-100 grain every two hours, and arsenite of copper in similar doses, for the gastro-intestinal symptoms.

THE St. Louis *Republic* says:

There is and can be no such thing as a protection Democrat; it is a contradiction in terms, precisely as it would be to speak of an infidel Christian.

That is a fair and frank statement, but how about the assertions of Mr. CLEVELAND and his secretary of the Treasury that in their tariff reform project they desired to protect American labor? The trouble is they did not mean what they said. They meant exactly what the *Republic* says and what the Republicans insisted all the time, viz., that the Democratic party is not for protection in any sense of the word. It is a free trade party.

THE Ways and Means committee of the House of Representatives have arranged dates for the hearing of those interested in the various industries which are affected by the tariff. This will give the representatives of our great industrial interests an opportunity to present their views and they can do so with the knowledge that they will speak to those who will present the protective principle in whatever changes they may recommend in the present rates of customs duties.

THE project for a repeal of the Iowa prohibitory law has but little real backing. The Democrats are doing all the talking, but the Republican rural press is a unit in favor of retaining the law without change. Their attitude is convincing as to the sentiment in the rank and file of the party. The country press is a faithful reflector of public opinion, and the fact that it is solid for the Prohibitory law simply means that public opinion is so in the Republican party.

THOUGH statistics shows that during the ten months of this year as compared with the corresponding period of 1888 there has been a falling off nearly a hundred thousand in the number of immigrants. Yet, this country is still receiving an immense quantity of material totally unfit for citizenship, and this Congress should adopt some new and definite restrictive legislation.

THE bill authorizing the President to veto individual items in the appropriation bills is one that should by all means be passed; but it probably will not be, as it would prevent the combinations among Congressmen to vote for each other's measures for the "improvement" of the creeks and spring runs of their respective "deestricks."

ENGLAND AND PORTUGAL.

It now looks as though the first struggle for the domination of interior Africa among civilized nations will be between Portugal and Great Britain. To understand the contention between the two countries, take a late map of Africa. The southern extremity of the continent is under British domination. On the western coast, from about Cape Frio, the British territory meets Benguela, which is claimed by Portugal, and which extends northward to the mouth of the Congo river, where it meets the French territorial claim. Portugal also claims Mozambique, a coast strip of indeterminate extent, on the eastern side of Africa, on Mozambique channel. Its southern limit is Delagoa bay, where it joins Zululand and the British claims; on the north it reaches to the vicinity of Cape Delgado, where it meets the German claim in Zanguebar and the interior.

The Makololo country in the interior, east of Benguela. The trouble which has just arisen between Great Britain and Portugal arises from the action of Major SERPA PINTO, a Portuguese officer, who acting under instructions from Lisbon, has invaded and claims to have conquered Makolololand. Further, Portugal now sets up claim to a broad belt of country, extending from the Atlantic to the Indian Oceans—bounded on the north by an irregular line from the mouth of the Congo on the Atlantic coast to a point north of Cape Delgado on the Indian Ocean; and on the south by a still more irregular line from about Cape Frio on the west to Delagoa bay on the east.

This vast belt includes the entire basin of the great river Zambesi; the whole district around Lakes Nyassa and Shirwa, with the English and American mission stations at Livingstonia, Blantyre, and other points; also Mashonaland, believed to be the "Ophir" of the Old Testament, and known to be enormously rich in gold. This sweeping claim at once conflicts with those of Great Britain. The Lakes Nyassa and Shirwa district has been claimed by Great Britain since the time that Livingstone first explored it; while Mashonaland and the upper portion of the Zambesi valley belongs to native tribes over which Great Britain claims a protectorate, and which vast area it leased in the spring of 1888 to the British South African company.

Even were it not for these, Great Britain would certainly not yield the claim of Portugal to dominion over the broad African belt, which would cut off her South African possessions from the rest of the continent and give her no chance to extend her dominion northward into the vast interior of equatorial Africa. Nor would she concede, for purely commercial reasons, Portugal's claims to exclusive ownership of the mighty Zambesi river, a vast water highway for international commerce, nor agree to her attempt to confine the trade thereon to vessels flying the Portuguese flag. The outcome of the dispute will be watched with great interest, for upon its settlement depends the future ownership of at least one-third of the Dark Continent.

THEY LIKE THE PREMIUMS.

Our premiums for club-raisers, especially the tea set, are moving off briskly. Those who raise these clubs find no difficulty, as THE BLADE is its own best recommendation. An examination of its well-filled pages is all that is needed to induce intelligent people to subscribe, and it is easy to raise a club and obtain a premium in two days' time. Below we give some letters from club-raisers:

BERWICK, IOWA, Dec. 10.—EDITOR BLADE:—I have received the tea-set in good order, and am well pleased with them. Every one who sees them think them very pretty. Very respectfully, LETTIE MCLAUGHLIN.

PENFIELD, PA., Dec. 11.—EDITOR BLADE:—I received my set of dishes to-day and was much pleased with them. The freight was 30 cents. I feel thankful for them.

L. S. HOINY.

BLANDINSVILLE, ILL., Dec. 4.—EDITOR BLADE:—I received my Blade tea set all right. I am well pleased with them, and all who see them think they are very nice. I would not take $10 and do without them.

ALLIE SPOFFORD.

MORRAL, O., Dec. 5.—EDITOR BLADE:—I write to thank you for the beautiful tea set we received some time ago. We presented them to my mother and she is well pleased with them. The freight on them was only 51 cents. Respectfully, P. M. WOLFE.

IOLA, KAN., Dec. 14.—EDITOR BLADE:—I received my tea set on the 10th, all in good shape. We are very well pleased. With many thanks. Yours, MRS. M. E. FISER.

CORRY, Dec. 18.—EDITOR BLADE:—We received the Blade tea set December 17. We were very much pleased, and think its just lovely. With many thanks I remain, yours truly, MRS. C. M. SMITH.

HINSDALE, N. Y., Nov. 5.—EDITOR BLADE:—The tea set came all right, and we are more than pleased with them. I mean now to try for the watch. Respectfully,

FRANK S. ROCKWELL.

LAWRENCE, KAN., Dec. 17.—EDITOR BLADE:—The tea set I ordered is at hand to-day. It is in good shape, and fills our highest expectations. It might be of interest to some of THE BLADE readers to know that the expressage to this point was $3.15. Yours truly,

A. J. MAY.

The following tell how THE BLADE cook stove is liked by those who have received it:

HAMDEN JUNCTION, O., Dec. 9.—EDITOR BLADE:—The cook stove came in good order. I am well pleased with it. I can recommend it to be first class, a good baker, and well worth the money. Freight only 55 cents. Yours truly, ELIJAH WINTERS.

GLEN MARY, TENN., Dec. 7.—EDITOR BLADE:—Saturday, November 30, I received the stove all O. K. My wife is very much pleased with it. It is indeed far better than we thought it would be. Every one who sees it says it would be cheap at $15. Many thanks. Yours,

H. DUNKELBERG.

ANNA, ILL., Dec. 17.—EDITOR BLADE:—We received the stove all right. We have been a little slow in letting you know how we liked it. But my wife has thoroughly testedit and finds it does all kinds of cooking nicely. We are very much pleased with it, and think any one who needs a stove would be more than doubly repaid for his trouble in getting up a club for THE BLADE. Yours respectfully, W. A. WENTWORTH.

THERE are too many young men and women who desire government clerical positions. Something like 12,000 are on the "eligible list" at Washington, fondly anticipating the time when they will be appointed to the civil service. Many of them have taken special courses of study in educational institutions, which are devised to give applicants for office the special information required in civil service examinations. Government positions are not particularly desirable, nor are they better than employment with private business houses. Perhaps the "hope deferred that maketh the heart sick" will modify the eager haste of the thousands who itch for employment under Uncle SAM.

THE Democratic papers of Ohio just now are defending the millionaires. Their cry is that a man is not to be condemned simply because he has money. Admitting the position for the sake of argument, we respectfully advance the proposition that, in Mr. BRICE'S case, the objection is not to him because he is worth $3,000,000, but that he is personally unworthy of preferment, because (1) of the manner in which he obtained his money, and (2) because of the manner he is using it to get the senatorship.

DEMOCRACY is the same everywhere. Fraud and boodle are its means of securing power. A scheme has been developed in Iowa among the Democrats looking to the defeat of Senator ALLISON by the purchase of enough Republican legislative votes to elect a Democrat. It won't work. Republicans are not on the market in Iowa.

As the majority of the Republican members of Congress, and a considerable number of the Democratic members, favor the repeal to the tobacco internal revenue tax, the passage of a law for that purpose is tolerably certain.

THE London *Times* is seriously displeased with Secretary WINDOM'S silver proposition. This will make a great many people wonder whether, after all, it is not a better thing than they at first thought it to be.

A NEW IDEA.

A Scriptural Serial of the Days of Our Savior,

To be Commenced in the Weekly Blade on January 9, by

ELIZABETH STUART PHELPS,

The Famed Author of "Gates Ajar" and Other Works.

A Story That Culminates with the Raising of Lazarus.

We are sure that the simple announcement of a serial story by the famous author of "The Gates Ajar," of which book over 100,000 copies have been sold, is enough to convince our half-million readers that they will have, in it alone, a feature worth more than the subscription price of THE BLADE for the entire year.

The stories which are of the greatest interest to the masses are those dealing with great moral or religious questions. The success of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," "Ben Hur," "Robert Elsmere," and others, is proof positive on this point. ELIZABETH STUART PHELPS'S grand success in "The Gates Ajar" is an assurance that this new story will be well worth perusal. It is called

"COME FORTH!"

It is a story of Judea during the lifetime of our Savior, and culminates with the miracle of the raising of LAZARUS—its title being the words of CHRIST on that occasion.

The Sunday school children all over the world will commence the study of the life CHRIST in the International Sunday school lessons of January. This serial will be helpful in the greatest degree to them, for it will give them a vivid idea of the daily life of the people among whom the Savior lived and moved during the days of His earthly ministry. It will bring Him and His disciples nearer to its readers, in giving them a fuller idea of the manners and customs of the people of the Holy Land.

Don't fail to renew your subscription so as to read this splendid Scriptural story.

A TARIFF OBJECT LESSON.

A TYPE FOUNDER—E. G. LAKE, of Philadelphia—tells a reporter of the Chicago *Tribune* the following:

The tariff is the only thing that saves the business from ruin. Type can be made in Europe away below what it costs here. Why is that? Well, that is easy enough to answer. I was in Europe this last summer looking into the type-foundry business. They are hiring men to do work there for $

THE WEEKLY BLADE.

With the present week's issue, the Weekly BLADE enters upon its fifty-third volume. Through some mis-numbering of the volumes, probably due to change of proprietorship in the early years of its history, there is a difference of some nine or ten months between the volume and the year. The first number of the Toledo Weekly BLADE was issued early in 1836, and consequently the paper entered on its fifty-third year almost a twelvemonth ago; but the fifty-second volume did not close until last week.

The Weekly BLADE is therefore considerably past the half-century mark, but it is hale and hearty, and never had a brighter prospect for long life and a prosperous career than now. It has seen Toledo develop from the rambling village, with less than a thousand inhabitants, of 1836, to the metropolis of 100,000 of 1889, and its history spans entirely that of the city, as Toledo was not incorporated until 1837. Like Toledo itself, the Weekly BLADE is established on a sure foundation, and its career is one of uninterrupted progress and prosperity.

"OLD WAR SONGS."

NUMBER XXXVI.

SHOT DOWN IN THE EARLY MORN.

[Near Fairfax C. H., Va., is the grave of a soldier killed one morning while standing guard on the hill where he now sleeps, (in the early part of the war). Residents in that vicinity do not know to which army he belonged.]

He sleeps beneath a Southern sky,
Upon a hillside old, neglected;
No marble tells the passer-by
Here Loyalty her pyre erected.
Only fair nature decks the spot
With every charm of vernal beauty,
Where a poor soldier boy was shot
Unswerving at his post of duty.

Only a common soldier killed,
At day dawn ere the sun had risen;
Only a common heart pulse stilled.
Its spirit freed from earthly prison.
I know not whether south or north,
Or east or west, the hearts that claim him,
I only know he holds his post,
And died for duty—who shall blame him?

"Where was his home?" You ask of me,
Were he the blue or gray, you wonder;
I only know his heart is free,
And he is restful sleeping yonder.
Virginia's soil lies o'er his breast,
And sleep is grateful after labor,
Enough! Why seek to know the rest,
Since War has sheathed his dripping blade?

So that death found this common one,
Firm as his post of duty serving,
How reeks it, now the battle done,
What colors wore he, if deserving?
Only a picket at his post,
Shot down at dawn thro' mist-clouds hateful.

GOOD-BYE, JEFF!

Oh! you told me that you'd meet me at the
White House, Jeff,
When I left you on the Chatahoochee shore,
But you're further from it now than even then,
friend Jeff,
And your face it isn't turned towards the
door.
You remember what I told you down in Georgia,
don't you, Jeff,
When you came to talk secession stuff to me?
That I thought you'd never live to see the
White House, Jeff;
You believe it now—so you're going to flee.

CHORUS—Then a good-bye, Jeff, good-by, Jeff,
I told you so before,
There's a nigger in the fence, and a
little common sense
Tells you that you'll never figger any
more.

O, there's nothing very cheering in the prospect, Jeff,
When our cotton and our credit both are gone,
And the Yankees reconnoiter like the mischief,
Jeff,
And appropriate our cattle and our corn.

They have taken half our niggers, and are
bound to take the rest,
And I wish they were in Guinea, every one,
For we've got ourselves in trouble with the
black men, Jeff,
Now you see we have to give it up and run.

O, I am really sick and tired of this nonsense
Jeff,
And my heart is sinking very low, indeed,
For our soldiers are deserting, and it seems
dear Jeff,
That we'd better pack our baggage and accede.

But our paper is protested and our credit gone
to smash,
And I don't know what to do, nor where to go,
But we'll never see each other at the White-
house, Jeff,
So we may as well meet somewhere down
below.

OLD ENGLISH CHRISTMAS SAWS.

After Christmas comes Lent.

A light Christmas, a heavy sheaf.

Now's now, but Yule's in winter.

A white Easter bringeth a green Christmas.

A Yule feast may be quit at Pasch.

A black Christmas maketh a fat churchyard.

He hath eaten many a Christmas pie.

They keep Christmas all the year.

It smells of Muscadel, like an English Christmas.

Christmas, long looked for, comes at last.

St. Andrew, the king, three weeks and three days before Christmas comes in.

The devil makes his Christmas pie of lawyers' tongues and clerks' fingers.

He that maketh at Christmas a dog his larder, and in March a pig his gardner, and in May a fool a keeper of wise counsel, he shall never have a good larder, fair garden, nor well-kept counsel.

Christmas comes but once a year,
And when it comes it brings good cheer.

At Christmas time or a little after,
A crab in the hedge, and thanks to the grafter.

Bounce, buckram, velvet's dear,
Christmas comes but once a year.

If Christmas day on a Sunday fall,
A troublous winter we shall have all;
If Christmas on a Monday be
Then a great winter we shall see,

Yule is come, and Yule is gone,
And we have feasted well;
So Jack must to his flail again,
And Jenny to her wheel.

In Other Lands.

The word Christmas is almost identical with the word kirmes. In the days when Elizabeth was queen Christmas was not seldom written Kyrsomas. In Holland, where the kirmis is a national institution, Christmas is called Kerstijd (Christmas-tide) and the festival of Christmas Kermis, Christmas day is called Kersdag, and Christmas pies are Kersbeck. In the Scandinavian countries, Denmark, Norway and Sweden and Finland, Christmas is known as Jul, the same word as the English Yule. In France Christmas is Noel, that is, the nativity. In Spain it is Navidad, in Portugal Natal, in Italy Natale, all these signifying the nativity. In Germany it is Weihnacht, Christmastide being Weihnachtzeit. In Wales it is Nadolig, meaning the nativity.

There is an ancient superstition that at midnight on Christmas eve the cattle in their stalls fall down on their knees in adoration of the infant Saviour in the same manner as the legend describes them to have done in the stable at Bethlehem. Bees are said to sing in their hives at the same time, and bread baked on Christmas eve, it is averred, never becomes mouldy.—[Exchange.

Christmas Weather Proverbs.

A warm Christmas, a cold Easter.

A light Christmas, a heavy sheaf.

A green Christmas, a white Easter.

A green Christmas makes a fat graveyard.

A wind on Christmas Day, trees will bring much fruit.

If Christmas finds a bridge, he'll break it; if he finds none, he'll make one.

If ice will bear a man before Christmas, it will not bear a man afterwards.

The shepherd would rather see his wife enter the stable on Christmas Day than the sun.

If the sun shines through the apple-tree on Christmas Day, there will be an abundant crop the following year.—[Boston Transcript.

Paying Them Off.

Managing Editor—Did you pay the artist who illustrated that great poem "Christmas Chimes" on your first page?

Secretary—Yes, sir. Sent him a check for $250.

Good. How much did you pay the engraver?

I sent him $75.

Yes. Is there any money left?

About 17 cents.

Very well. Send it to the man who wrote the poem.—Philadelphia Record.

JAPANESE GOWNS.

A Late Fad of Fashion in New York Society.

I've forgotton who set the fashion. It's most likely that half a dozen women who brought the robes home from the exposition began to be on display at small-and-earlies, afternoon teas and informal Sunday

FROM THE MIKADO'S LAND.

evenings in the grotesque but strangely graceful designs of dragons, leaves, tendrils and winged creatures disporting themselves on satin petticoats and on wide soft scarfs or "kimonos" of crepe de Chine at about one and the same point of tune.

The Japanese dress pure and simple may be illustrated by an example which I saw worn yesterday by a young married woman, the sister of a well-known and popular hostess, at an afternoon tea. The lady is of slight figure and below the medium height, with a clear brown complexion, warmed with a glow in the cheeks and a spark in the long brown eyes, which somehow, without any marked peculiarity of shape, suggest like Jane Hading's an Eastern origin. She held her little court in what people are pleased to call this winter a Japanese corner, reclining among cushions covered with beasts and strange fowl, a fan with a flight of sketchy cranes winging across it in one hand, Japanese tea cup in the other, screen from Tokio on one side and cabinet of bric-a-bac from Yokohama a little behind.

As she leaned back on her couch you would have said at first glance she was wrapped in a shawl, so completely enveloping was the soft delicate scarf of that thin, hand-woven, Japanese red crepe, the tint and texture of which are rapidly becoming familiar to every one. This scarf or kimino, as she would prefer you to call it, was laid about the shoulders, and folded across the bosom, leaving a narrow V. Long folds of it hung over the arms, giving it the effect of a mantle that might slip off at any time. In real truth, as you saw when she rose to greet her guests at table, loose draperies were fastened to the shoulders, and shirred closely in the back at the waist line, the ample folds depending from the arms only, giving a Watteau effect when looked at from behind, and then falling in a slight train over the under gown, the entire effect being produced from one wide, straight strip of crepe, scarcely cut or shaped at all, but cleverly arranged as draperies to the real gown below.

THREW BACK HER KIMINO.

But if uncut this scarf was not unornamental. Almost every creature that flies in the air or swims in the sea or is imagined by the brain of those strange people in Asia whom we call half civilized was pictured upon it in outline in unequalled gold thread embroidery. A bit of dull blue crepe, also gold embroidered, filled in the V at the throat, and about the waist was tied a very wide sash, loosely folded, of soft blue and red crepes, intermingled and flashing like the rest with gold.

So my lady of the teacups sat for an hour. By and by they called on her to sing. Then she arose, threw back the kimino, freeing her arms, and let the long, graceful scarlet draperies hang from her shoulders behind, supplying a glowing frame to a pretty picture. Her real gown was a straight slip of blue satin, following the lines of the figure, but not fitting too closely, and embroidered with splashy, sprawling designs of dragons in gold. There were drooping sleeves of the same material and these were lined with a delicate silk in pale yellow. On her feet were pointed red and gold sandals, and her hair was rolled back and thrust through with Japanese pins with fans and flower heads in pierced work in gold.

CHRISTMAS SNAPS.

Fat girls fill stockings the best.—[Waterloo Observer.

The best clause in a child's life—Santa Claus.—[Detroit Free Press.

Don't expect to find a brown stone front in your stocking.—[Philadelphia Call.

The girl who hangs up the biggest piece of mistletoe doesn't get kissed the most.—[Judge.

Santa Claus don't come down the chimneys now, but he gets there just the same.—[Somerville Journal.

Never look a gift-horse in the teeth. It is also wrong to look a Christmas gift in pricemark.—[Somerville Journal.

Kris-Kringle insists on having a "rum" time at least once a year. It's when he takes his Santy-cruis.—[Yonkers Gazette.

Get the government to observe Christmas customs and the suplus would soon enough be reduced.—[New Orleans Picayune.

"The holiday spirit is an all-pervading one," remarked a father as he bought his little boy a fifteen-cent tin horse; "but it costs money."—[Puck.

"No, my son, a 'green Christmas' is not necessarily of Irish origin, though they do wear the 'green' over there."—[Dansville Breeze.

When the Chicago girls hang up their stockings for Christmas, they are the envy of the rest of the world; but they bankrupt Santa Claus.—[Boston Post.

Santa Claus says that the modern chimneys are a nuisance, as they land him away down in the cellar in a red-hot furnace, and then half the time the cellar door is locked.—[Dansville Breeze.

CHRISTMAS HINTS FOR THE MILLION.

A champagne cork enrobed in a red-flannel ball dress and gilded, makes a handsome pen-wiper for your literary friend.

A pair of blue goggles is a suitable gift for your pretty-eyed rival.

Do not forget to send your rich aunt a prize Christmas card.

A receipted dressmaker's bill is a nice present for a wife to give to her husband.

The best thing for the 40-year-old maiden to give her dilatory lover is a hint.

Your son-in-law would probably like it if you give him a rest.—[Puck.

Preferred to Believe in Santa Claus.

"There is no such person as Santa Claus, is there?" asked a small Hartford girl of her mother.

"Some folks say there is not," was the reply.

"Well, I don't care. I don't like folks who say there isn't any Santa Claus. They never give little girls any nice presents."—[Hartford Post.

FROM A RAINDROP TO A GEYSER,

—the wonders of water in various forms—is the subject of an article which the great English scientist, Professor Tyndall, has written for the coming volume of the *Youth's Companion*. Popular scientific articles will also be contributed by Professor N. S. Shaler, Professor John Trowbridge, Sir Morell Mackenzie, Dr. William A. Hammond, Lieutenant Schwatka and Dr. St. John Roosa.

WHAT CHRISTMAS MEANS.

Celebrated as a Holy Day Since the Year of Our Lord 93.

At midnight on the 25th of this month the birthday of the Saviour of mankind will have been celebrated for the seventeen hundred and ninety-second time, for Christmas was first kept as a holy day A. D. 93. We have no means of determining the exact date of the Saviour's nativity. The statement that the date was preserved in the public archives at Rome, though asserted by some of the early fathers, is not now generally credited. As to the year, preponderance of opinion and of such evidence as we have seems to favor that of 4 or 5 B. C. As to the month, December is the height of the rainy season in Judea, and therefore the fact, as stated by the New Testament, that shepherds were watching their flocks on its plains, while stars were shining in the heavens on the night of the Saviour's birth, makes it extremely unlikely that it could have occurred in that month. Many learned treatises have been written and plausable arguments advanced to prove that it must have taken place in October, but the question will ever remain in abeyance.

For the first three centuries Christmas was one of the most movable of all religious festivals. The Eastern church observed January 6 as the anniversary both of Christ's birth and circumcision. But in the Fourth century Pope Julius I. ordered an investigation of the matter, and after long deliberation, the theologians of both the East and the West united in appointing December 25 to be kept as Christ's birthday. It seems not improbable that in selecting December 25 as the date of the greatest event save one—the crucifixion—in the world's history the worthy fathers were influenced by a desire to supplant the many heathen festivals of the Winter solstice, such as the Saturnalia or great festival of Saturn and Ops, which began on December 19 (or after Cæsar's reformation of the calendar on the 17th) and continued for seven days. This presumption is made more probable from the fact that for many centuries the festivities of Christmas were prolonged until "Twelfth Night," January 6, and even till Candlemas Day, February 2, while they usually began as early as the night before All-Saints' Day, or Hallow Even, thus showing the desire of the early fathers of the church to make the heathen converts to Christianity feel that they had lost nothing in harmless pleasure and enjoyment by the substitution of the Christian festival for the heathen one.

Not only did the Romans observe this period of the year as a time for mirth and rejoicing, but many of our most familiar Christmas usages are derived from the old heathen festivals which Christ has replaced. The custom of giving Christmas presents, now so universally observed, was derived from the old Roman Saturnalia, or Feast of Saturn, above mentioned, at which it was customary for all the members of the household to offer gifts to each other. It is not traceable, as is sometimes ignorantly stated, to the New Testament account of how kings and wise men made rich offerings to the infant Jesus.

The Yule clog, or log—the great stick of timber placed in olden times upon the Christmas fire—was derived from the Saxon feast of Jul or Yu, at which a similar piece of timber formed the principal fire and the principal light. The Yule clog and the superstitions connected with it are among the most venerable of Christmas associations. The Yule clogs that blazed in the vast halls of the old English feudal barons of the middle ages were huge trees, and we are told that even just before the close of the last century the mansion of an English gentleman residing near Shrewsbury was totally destroyed by fire in consequence of too large a Yule log having been lighted on his hearthstone. When the Yule log was not all consumed before dawn and burned on into the light of Christmas day, its ashes were carefully preserved until the next Christmas eve, and were believed to bring good health and fortune to all the household, but should they be scattered and lost death and misfortune were thought sure to follow.

The custom of decorating churches, dwellings and places of business with evergreen, holly, laurel, bays and mistletoe at the Christmas season has also a heathen origin, being a perpetuation of an observance of the old British Druids, whose belief it was that kindly sylvan spirits sought these ornaments of living green and hovered near them, untouched and unharmed by nipping frost until the death of winter.

Those same old Druids attached much importance to the mistletoe, investing it with a peculiarly hallowed and mystic character. They regarded it as an emblem of love, and belied that it typified the beneficent feelings of their gods towards mankind. It is doubtless that to this old Druidical association of the mistletoe with love that the English custom, which still obtains, of enforcing the forfeit of a kiss from any female who is caught under a branch of it at Christmas time is traceable.

By the celebration of Christmas, with its grand liturgy, its magnificent music and its pictorial and dramatic representations of the principal events in the life of Him whose birth it commemorated, the church sought to repress these heathen festivities and to lift up the minds of the people to something higher and holier, though from the first the day was regared both as a holy commemoration of the most sacred event and as a mirthful, joyous festival. In the middle ages the festive observance of the day often so far overtopped its more sacred features that the clergy were frequently compelled to check the unseemly merriment of their flocks.

The name of Christmas assigned to the festival was derived from Christ and the Saxon Maesse or Mass, and the two words were combined to denote a special service in honor of the birth of the Son of God.

Probably one of the most generally known of the old Christmas observances, next to the giving of presents, is the singing of Christmas carols. These were pious canticles designed to replace the ribald songs of the old heathen festivals, and the custom of children and even grown people going about from house to house singing them at the door on Christmas Eve and being rewarded with Christmas cheer and Christmas spending money is maintained in England even at the present day.—[New York World.

CHRISTMAS EVERGREENS.

Origin of the Custom of Decorating Homes and Churches.

The old and pleasant custom of decking our houses and churches at Christmas with evergreens, is derived from ancient heathen practices. Where Druidism had existed the houses were decked with evergreens in December that the sylvan spirits might repair to them and remain unnipped with frost and cold winds until a milder season had renewed the foliage of their darling abodes. The cutting of the mistletoe was a ceremony of great solemnity with our ancient ancestors. The people went in procession. The bards walked first, singing canticles and hymns; a herald preceded three Druids with implements for the purpose. Then followed the prince of the Druids accompanied by all the people. He mounted the oak and cutting the mistletoe with a golden sickle, presented it to the other Druids, who received it with great respect, and on the first day of the year distributed it among the people as a sacred and holy plant, crying: "The mistletoe for the new year!"

Because it was used in the pagan rites of the Druids, the mistletoe has never been used in the decoration of Christian churches, and it therefore had its place assigned it in kitchens and halls, where it was hung up in great state with white ribbons with the charm attached to it that the maid who was not kissed under it at Christmas would not be married in that year.

An Insulted Woman.

Life Insurance Agent—"My dear madam, allow me to suggest that you get your husband's life tasured for $3,000. Suppose he were to die suddenly."

Indignant Woman—"Get out of here. Do you think I am capable of murdering even my own husband for the paltry sum of $3,000? What's the matter with a $10,000 accident policy on his life?"—[Texas Siftings.

Hanging Up His Stocking.

"Are you going to hang up your stocking this year?" asked one young man of another.

"No; I am not," was the short, sharp reply.

"Well, you needn't be so cranky about it," was the answer.

"Well, I have a good reason to be cranky," was the answer. "To ask a man who hung up his overcoat last summer, and hasn't got it out yet, if he is going to hang up his stocking, is a positive insult. I don't like the word at all. Do you think I am going barefooted?"—[Elmira Gazette.

VERY COSTLY DRUGS.

Some of the Expensive Medicines of the Modern Pharmacopœia.

Some medicines are very expensive, says the New York *Sun*. At a recent exhibition of the American Public Health association in Brooklyn one manufacturing chemist, E. Merck, exhibited a case of bottles, about enough to fill an ordinary barrel, the total value of which was over $30,000. The most costly drug in the case was labeled "Hom-atropine hydrobromate cryst." It was all in one bottle, containing six pounds, and was valued at $12,600, or at the rate of $2,100 a pound. This drug is an alkaloid, artificially prepared from atropine, Its effects are similar to those of atropine, but not so lasting. It is a preparation of belladona and is chiefly used in treatment of the eyes, and always in minute quantities. It expands the pupil of the eye.

This substance is a striking illustration of the application of chemistry to well-known medicines. The physician does not deal so much with substances in their crude form as with the quintessences or active principles. By this means all superfluous matter is removed and only that part which is needed to be used in the healing art is given to the patient. Thus, not only have the roots, herbs, flowers, seeds, barks, juices, ores and earths of ancient medicine been forced to give up their essential and active parts to the retort or crucible of the chemist and to reappear freed from dross or inert matter, reduced in quantity, but vastly magnified in intensity of action, but entirely new combinations of elements have been devised by chemical science and formed by chemical art; and wholly new and previously unthought of modes of action in the human organism have been achieved by some of these new formations. As the healing art has become specialized, and no one physician claims to be able to treat all ailments, so the use of special drugs for special treatment has become necessary, so that it is difficult to find even a druggist who is familiar with every one of the drugs now in the market. "The United States Pharmacopœia" is a huge book, with the contents of which but few are thoroughly familiar. Yet to get a list of drugs in actual use it will be necessary to study also the German pharmacopœia and the English pharmacopœia. In the exhibition referred to one house showed 150 articles only out of 6,000 produced in the laboratories.

Among the expensive drugs is aconitine alkaloid, an amorphous powder from aconitum napellus, produced from monkshood or wolfsbane. It is used in febrile diseases and neuralgia. A bottle of this containing about three pounds is valued at $489.50. A bottle of anemonin containing 3½ ounces, about the size of a pony of beer, is valued at $191.45. There are thirteen different preparations of caffeine, in small bottles, at from $26 to $28 a bottle. This medicine has lately been applied successfully in Bright's disease. A small bottle of chelidonine alkaloid containing three ounces, made from tetterwort, used in skin diseases and scrofula and dropsy, is valued at $88. Cocaine, which has the power when applied to any part of the body to render that part insensible to pain or touch during a short time, is rather an expensive drug. A bottle containing about four pounds was valued at $420. A bottle of cantharidin crystals, the old-time blister in a new form, was valued at $143. Codeine phosphate is a preparation of morphine used to produce sleep. A fifteen-ounce bottle of it was valued at $135. A five-ounce bottle of cotoin, called "true cotoin," costs about $70 an ounce. Digitalin Germaine, a powder used to decrease the action of the heart, costs about $70 a pound. Elaterin crystals prepared from the wild American Indian arrow, a poison used as a medicine in lockjaw and hydrophobia, costs $15 an ounce.

An ounce of hyoscine hydrobromate crystals costs $1,166.66, and 9½ ounces of hyoscyamine alkaloid costs $1,406. These are preparations of henbane, and are considered excellent hypnotics. They are similar in general effect to atropine, but not followed by such dangerous symptoms.

Among the other costly drugs in this collection were angaricin, 4¼ ounces, $43.75; colocynthin, 5½ ounces, $14.75; conine hydrochlorate, 4½ ounces, $98.43; cyclamin, 3¾ ounces, $54.04; digitoxin, 1⅝ ounces, $87.40; gentisin, 1¾ ounces, $91.15; hellotropin, 6 ounces, $61.25; hyarestine hydrochlorate, 6¾ ounces, $94.90; papaverine alkoid, a vegetable pepsin or digestive juice, found in the melon tree in tropical America, about $120 a pound; papayotin, used as a solvent for the diphtheritic membrane, 13 ounces, $189.58.

There are various preparations from the Calabar bean that are very costly. They are used in diseases of the eye and lockjaw. One preparation is called physostigmine salicylate. Physostigmine hydrochlorate crystals in a bottle about the size of a Coney Island glass of beer, containing 5½ ounces, cost 5$03.14. A small bottle of physostigmine salicylate crystals, containing three ounces, cost $1,810.05.

There is a preparation from the leaves of taborandi pilocarpus pannatifolius called pilocarpine nitrate crystal, used in consumption. A bottle of this containing one pound six ounces is valued at $673.75. A preparation from quassia or bitter wood (picroia excelsus) is used for dyspepsia and diarrhea, and also for worms. A small bottle of this containing ten ounces is valued at $218.75.

A MOTHER'S APPEAL.

Out from his home to the arrogant world,
Its dazzling allurements, vice banners unfurled,
To wreck, or exalt, his own life and mine,
To level with brutes, or to manfully shine,
My boy has gone.

Closer our hearts have been knitting for years
My boy, my boy, now my man, O ye tears!
No wonder ye fall, for in the wide earth
So cruel and cold, where all evil has birth,
My boy is alone.

My laddie! so helpful, warm-hearted and true;
O men of the world, I am pleading with you;
My sappling will readily mold to your will,
Remember your own sons, and treat him not ill,
My innocent boy.

O, help him to shun the base and impure,
Lead him away when temptations allure,
O, teach him this truth, who will and who can,
That justice and purity make the true man.
Be a friend to my boy.

Some day a fair maiden, with heart pure and free,
Will wait for the coming of him who shall be
Friend, lover, and husband. May she yield her name
To him who has lived a life without stain—
My unsullied boy.

My councils, my prayers, O, will they avail?
Will he learn to say no, and flinch not nor quail,
Will he remember my love and my care?
Oh, Father in Heaven, give ear to my prayer,
Spare me my boy.

—[Written for The Chicago Journal, by Ellen Fracker Pratt.

A Christmas Talk.

If I were to ask you to shut your eyes and try to fancy that Christmas stood before you, what would you see? Ah! not one, but many. Some of you would see, in your mind's eye, an old man with long, white, frosty beard and kindly face, his brave form draped in a sparkling robe of snow decked with icicles—old father Christmas from top to toe. Some would see another sort of figure—a round, roly-poly, jolly personage, dressed in furs from crown to sole, laughing in every feature of his plump, ruddy face, all aglow after driving his Dunder and Blixen, and half hidden by his great sleigh-load of toys. Some of you, again, would see nothing but the toys, and your only thought, I shudder to say, would be, "Which of them are for me?" Some of you would see no fancied personage at all; but glorious winter without, and within doors a bright home, a glowing hearth, and all the family eager to welcome you from school for the happy holiday week. And a great many of you would scarcely close your eyes before the beautiful Christ-child would come and fill your soul with love and joy and gratitude; and your one next thought would be to give happiness to many, to make other hearts as glad as your own on the Perfect Day.—[Jack-in-the-Pulpit in St. Nicholas.

Faith in Santa Claus.

Faith in the Santa Claus myth hasn't entirely failed out of the juvenile mind, though even the very youngest representatives of the present generation are apt to be skeptical. The proof:

Little Bettina, 3-years old, has a rag doll, with whom her relations are particularly tender and sympathetic. A morning or two ago this doll was discovered near the fireplace in a shocking condition; she was black in the face, and in fact black all over, and the smell of soot about her was very strong. It was a mystery until Bettina was interrogated. The condition of the doll made her look a little rueful, but she brightened up and said:

"I fispered to Patty all the things I wanted for Christmas, and sent her up the chimney to tell Santa Claus!"

Most Extraordinary.

Brown—Yes; my wife is very eccentric. She bought me a Christmas present, and——

Smith—Had the bill sent to you, I suppose?

Brown—No; paid for it out of her own money.—[Munsey's Weekly.

Judicious speculation the road to riches. Wall street operations conducted on $10 to $1,000. Jackson, Sprague & Co., 30 New st., New York.

HER CLAWS WERE UNCOVERED.

They strolled on the beach by the bright summer sea,
He and she.
And they never paid any attention to me,
He said she.
His air was superb, and to all that he said
She modestly listened and hung down her head,
While with swift-flying blushes her fair face grew red.
Dear me!

Again they are seen on the beach by the sea,
She and he;
That they're married this year you will quickly agree,
She and he.
In silence he stalks while she lays down the law,
A man more submissive the world never saw,
He's learnt that a kitten has claws in her paw.
Dear me!

—[Exchange.

WITH THE CHRISTMAS DAWN.

PAUL CHAPIUS.

The wind whistled shrilly round the corners of the fine old house, whirling the snow in fantastic shapes here and there in capricious gusts. It was a wild night, and the air seemed full of invisible but omnipresent forms who took fiendish delight in sporting with the biting blast, as it rose and fell with mournful cadence.

I knew, I felt, this wild revel of the spirits round about me, as I lay motionless waiting quietly for Death to put his cold hand upon me and bear me away.

Full of the knowledge that I must die, and that soon, I was perfectly resigned. It had been a hard fight. I wanted to live, for the noblest girl in all the world had promised that we should wed in the early New Year.

She was with me even at the end. She would not let me die. As I closed my eyes I saw the great room take on a strange appearance. The air seemed to vivify. It gradually resolved itself into vapory shapes, shapes that clustered around my Marie, and by their presence gave her strength for her terrible ordeal.

I was exhausted. My will power was gone. I was entirely passive.

Not so Marie. With all the intensity of her highly-wrought nature, fortified by a faith that knew no faltering, impelled by a love illimitable as space itself, she summoned her shadowy friends about her, and with their aid fought the battle of life and death for me.

I grew weaker. I could feel that gradual sinking of all personality that precedes the end. And then, through eyes not mortal, I saw fresh accessions to the host surrounding Marie, and a wave of concentrated thought revived me. It seemed as though my weary soul had been imbued with a life-giving current. This was followed by a slender thread of doubt, coming not from Marie and her hosts of friends, but from some foreign source, and under its influence I drooped again.

Marie's love-lit eyes detected the change and with a concentration of thought that was intense in its earnestness she summoned still other spirit friends and with them overcame and banished the one little thread of doubt that had worked me mischief.

The storm outside increased in violence. I could feel the spirits of the earth gnashing and writhing in agony lest they should be cheated of their prey through the firm steadfast faith of a loving girl.

Then came unconsciousness. I drifted away. Was this, then, really death? Ah, if this be death, then all its terrors are gone. No, no, it is not death! It is life! Marie's faith has won. I feel it! I know it! The wind dies down. The wailings of the lost spirits sink away into nothingness, and then begins the low, sweet chant of the souls saved. It swells louder and grander, and its glorious tones of exultation are taken up by choirs innumerable, who praise the birth and glory of Christ our Lord. The dawn breaks, far away in the east. It heralds another Christmas morn. It betokens the awakening of a new soul born again into the true life through the faith of one whose love was greater than my sins.

TOBACCO LAW IN FRANCE.

The State Owns the Business There and Runs it Itself.

Visitors to France have noticed how careful the custom officers are to see that no one is smuggling in matches or tobacco. The importation of matches is prohibited, and there is a very heavy duty on tobacco. Any one who has made the acquaintance of the French match will not readily forget it. Its peculiarity is that it is very reluctant to ignite, and it no sooner ignites than it proceeds to extinguish itself. Matches have hitherto been made solely by one company, which paid the government a large sum every year for the privilege of supplying Frenchmen with bad matches. As a proposal to continue this system threatened to overthrow the Tirard ministry the other day, the government has decided to take the manufacture of bad matches into its own hands. The tobacco is made to suit the matches. It is also bad and dear. The tobacco business has long been a state monopoly, and is one of the principal sources of revenue. The latest report on the subject shows that last year's crop was 20,175,000 kilogrammes, which was valued at 16,423,000 francs, or $3,294,600. This was a poor year, giving only 995 francs worth per hectare, while in 1887 the value per hectare was 1,811 francs. This was the home production, but the government imports a great deal of tobacco in leaf, and manufactures it in France. The government sells it after it is made, and the smallest tobacco store in France is part of this huge state monopoly.

The state gives the privilege of growing the weed to planters, and looks after them with motherly care. It fixes in what departments tobacco may be grown. It marks off the number of acres to be planted. It selects the variety of plant and settles what number may be grown on each acre. Not only so, but the army of officials, who are always prowling about on behalf of the state, count the plants in each acre and the number of leaves on each plant. Should a planter have less than the inventories number of leaves when the harvest comes the officials will be down on him. A much graver offence, however, is to have too many leaves. This is regarded as an attempt to defraud the state, and unless satisfactorily explained is followed by fines and imprisonment. When he reaps his crop the planter has not the privilege of asking a price for it. The price is fixed by the state. Tobacco is now grown in 28 departments. There are 62,284 planters, and 16,507 hectares of plantations. There are 27 stores for the reception of indigenous tobacco, and stores at Bordeaux, Dieppe, Dunkerque, Havre and Marseilles for imported tobacco. The state has 21 manufactories. The largest is that at Lille, which turns out six million kilogrammes of tobacco a year. There are 20,871 employees in the factories, of whom 2,560 are men and 18,311 women. This does not include officials and agents. The government does not treat its employees very well, and strikes in tobacco factories are frequent.

All the tobacco stores in France belong to the state. There are over 40,000 of them. The state does not sell tobacco at retail except in these stores. All the others are let to widows of officers, government officials, and sometimes to the widows of senators, deputies and prefects. They take the place of pensions. If the government grants a pension to the wife of some man who has died in the service of his country, that generally means that she gets a tobacco store, or bureau, as it is called. As the social position of the pensioners will not allow them to run the bureaus directly, they let them. The dealer is allowed 10 per cent profit by the government, and is prohibited from selling any tobacco except that supplied and priced by the state. Neither must they make cigarettes out of the government tobacco. Every cigarette must bear the official stamp. The state has three bureaus in Paris where the best quality of cigars can be obtained. These are either imported or made out of imported tobacco.

It was Napoleon who established this monopoly in tobacco. The weed had been introduced into France by a Frenchman named Jean Nicot, and its manufacture was free in 1621. A monopoly was established in 1674, but was abolished long before the Revolution. Tobacco proved a profitable business when the culture was free. Napoleon was attracted at a ball in the Tuileries by a lady gorgeously arrayed with diamonds and jewels. "Who is that princess?" he inquired. When told that she was only a tobacco manufacturer's wife, he at once resolved to take charge of this means of acquiring wealth. —[N. Y. Sun.

CHRISTMAS WITH THE POETS.

Then pealed the bells, more loud and deep,
"God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men!"
—[H. W. Longfellow.

With gentle deeds and kindly thoughts,
And loving words withal,
Welcome the merry Christmas in
And hear a brother's call.
—[F. Lawrence.

Who taught mankind on that first Christmas day
What 'twas to be a man; to give, not take;
To serve, not rule; to nourish, not devour;
To help, not crush; if need, to die, not live?
—[Charles Kingsley.

Sound over all waters, reach out from all lands
The chorus of voices, the clasping of hands;
Sing hymns that were sung by the stars of the morn,
Sing songs of angels who Jesus was born!
—[J. G. Whittier.

As fits the holy Christmas birth,
Be this, good friends, our carol still—
Be peace on earth, be peace on earth,
To men of gentle will.
—[Thackeray.

The poor will many a care forget;
The debtor think not of his debts,
But as they each enjoy their cheer,
Wish it were Christmas all the year.
—[Thomas Miller.

But the star that shines in Bethlehem
Shines still, and shall not cease,
And we listen still to tidings
Of glory and of peace.
—[Adelaide A. Proctor.

So, now is come our joyful'st feast,
Let every one be jolly;
Each room with ivy leaves is drest,
And every post with holly.
—[Wither

The bells that usher in that morn,
Have ever drawn my mind away
To Bethlehem, where Christ was born,
And the low stable where He lay,
In which the large eyed oxen fed;
To Mary bowing low her head,
And looking down with love sincere,
Such thoughts bring Christmas once a year.
—[Thomas Miller.

There's a song in the air!
There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer
And a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire while the Beautiful sing
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a king.

In the light of that star
Lies the ages impaneled!
And that song from afar
Has swept over the world.
Every heart is aflame, and the Beautiful sing
In the homes of the nations that Jesus is King.
—[J. G. Holland.

The bells—the bells—the Christmas bells,
How merrily they ring!
As if they felt the joy they tell
To every human thing.
The silvery tones, o'er vale and hill,
Are swelling soft and clear,
As wave on wave the tide of sound
Fills the bright atmosphere.
—[John W. Brown.

Blow, bugles of battle, the marches of peace;
East, west, north and south let the long quarrel cease:
Sing the song of great joy that the angels began,
Sing of glory to God and of good will to man!
Hark! joining in chorus,
The heavens bend o'er us!
The dark night is ending and dawn has begun.
—[Whittier.

This happy day, whose risen sun
Shall set not through eternity,
This holy day when Christ the Lord,
Took on him our humanity,
For little children everywhere
A joyous season still we make;
We bring our precious gifts to them,
Even for the dear child Jesus' sake.
—[Phœbe Cary.

CURRENT COMMENT.

What Mars the Prospect.
New York Press.

We'd feel somewhat more elated as the Christmas time draws near,
Its approach might hail with pleasure and feel glad to have it come,
Did the specter of disquietude not to our minds appear
Through the knowledge that the boy next door is then to have a drum.

Christmas Candies.
Pittsburg Dispatch.

In the candy stores great preparations are in progress to make the annual attack of dyspepsia more appetizing in form than ever. Boxes for the toothsome sweets are obsolete, and exquisite little baskets of every size and shape, in all the pretty straws, will be used for the Christmas candy instead. Modern Paris at the Americans for being a candy-loving and indulging race, but, with temptation put in such irresistible form, how can they abstain and isn't it preferable, anyway, to smoking cigarettes, as she does?

Uncle Sam as Santa Claus.
N. Y. Press.

Oh! bright the hopes on Congress set,
Despite Chicago's mocking,
New York thinks Harrison knows she'll get
The World's Fair in her stocking.

John's Christmas Present.
Commercial Traveller.

"Oh, dear! what can I get for John's Christmas present? Do help me think of something, Fanny?"

"I'd get him something useful, dear, if I were you."

"Yes, but what? I have it. I'll get him a new suit. He needs one."

"Very good. That is what I gave my husband last year."

"You? Why, I thought——"

"Yes, I know. It was a divorce suit."

Small Coins for Christmas.
Macon Telegraph.

An extraordinary demand for small coins is being made on the treasury, and it is explained that the heads of American families are preparing to meet the Christmas demands of the American small boy. For the convenience of this youngster the mints are working night and day.

Christmas Trade Booms.
New York Press.

Merchants now are looking pleasant,
Shoppers plenty, profits nice,
And the tiny words of the present
Frame the question, "What's the price?"

Why it is Called Christmas-Tide.
Texas Siftings.

Mr. Roundtop—"Why do they call it Christmas-tide, Portly?"

Mr. Portly—"Because there are so many weddings, perhaps. Christmas-tied. See?"

"I thought it was because so many were traing to tide over it."

Under the Mistletoe.
Boston Courier.

All hearts are joyous;
What can annoy us
When plenty smiles and the bumpers flow?
And, mild shouts of laughter,
The boys run after
And kiss the girls 'neath the mistletoe?

A Familiar Scene.
Smith's Monthly.

She—"George, you will have to give me $12 to pay the grocer's last bill with." He—"Why, how's that, my dear? I thought I always gave you money enough." She—"Well, you see, dear, I had to take the grocer

The Household.

MISS EMILY S. BOUTON . . . . EDITOR

HOME TALKS.

BUSINESS WOMEN.

Criticism of Them in Their New Contacts and Relations.

SINCE wives, mothers and sisters have become business women, and grown quite fascinated by the strange, new contact with the world at large, they have begun to draw down upon themselves some rather severe criticisms. In the first place, we are accused of being unbusinesslike, and I am afraid in many cases it is sadly true. We are not punctual; we "change our minds;" we offer an opinion before we have had time to form one; we inconvenience business men when there is no necessity to do so, and we are very, very careless.

What a list of errors!

Now hear what the public press says: "To many men it is a strange, menacing, disagreeable fact that the so-called gentler sex is rapidly forcing its way in competition into all professions and trades which have in generations past—we might say for ages past—been arrogated wholly by the lords of creation."

This shows in the first place that we are not wanted; in the second place, that if we are determined to have peace we must fight for it; and thirdly, that it will be only a victory in the sense that "to the victor belongs the spoils."

When the colored people of the South were freed, the nation said: "Here are a people who are to tread new paths. We must help them in every way we can. We will give their men the franchise. We will educate their children. We will put in their way every advantage we have ourselves." This they did, with—in some cases—signally good results; in other cases, disappointment.

When woman comes forward, in almost the same situation, there is no helping hand ready. We may not be taught business methods because no one wants us to be business-like. We may come, if we are determined, and stand side by side in the shops and offices, but we must learn skill by better experience and under heavy fire from the enemy.

These are hard lines. Of course we will not all stand, and there is an ignoble shout when one falls by the way. Still, the majority remain at their posts. They are going to make a great many mistakes, they will not always succeed, and every failure will bring down severe censure from the fact that they are being watched.

There are many arguments as to the real good to be gained by this movement of women toward public life, but if a moment is given to the subject, it becomes evident to any thoughtful mind that it is really no new thing at all. Women have always "managed things," only they have never had the credit of it. Words of advice to sons and brothers, hours of work—brain work, too,—for husbands and fathers, have gone without comment, because they were never known.

There is no one among us but knows some individual instance where the whole success of a scheme has been based upon the action of a woman, who was never known to have a part in it.

Such women have always been business like. It is because they are so, that others have dared to make the attempt.

There is one thing they will all find. The moment a woman steps into the arena to fight for the conquest in business life, the men with whom she comes in contact treat her with the same regard they give to a man doing business with them. To some women this is startling at first, but it is the very highest compliment. The deference formerly paid to women was that of an elder to a child; this is the manner of one thoughtful mind toward another of the same degree.

Women are more far-seeing than men, and that is an advantage; they are more cautious and that also is an advantage. They are changeable, which is a great disadvantage; they are easily discouraged, which is an evil, but can be cured with time. The greatest danger to them, however, is that they attempt a great deal more than they can accomplish. Men seldom do this. It belongs to a woman to do half a dozen things at once; it seems to be part of her nature; but this more than anything else is going to be a stumbling block to the business woman of to-day, and there will be many bitter failures before they learn that "one thing at a time and that well done," should be the motto of their lives when they undertake to work with others in a common cause.

MRS. A. M. PAYNE.

FANCY WORK AND HOUSE DECORATION.

DOOR-WEIGHT.—This little device will be found very useful in keeping a door open at a certain angle, and preventing it from slamming shut with every little draught of air. It is simply a common brick, covered first with strong ticking and then with heavy cloth, neatly embroidered with any design to suit the fancy. A stout worsted cord covers the seams.

A TABLE COVER.—A very pretty small cover can be made of gold-colored felt with cardinal border of the same material. The center, which is of gold-colored felt, should measure one yard square, and the border should be an eighth of a yard wide. The border should be stitched on to the center on the wrong side, the seam pressed open that it may be perfectly flat, and on the right side a row of feather stitching embroidered with gold silk on the seam to hide the joining. In each corner have a design of wild roses in applique; the rose of pink plush or satin, the leaves of green satin. First sketch the design, or have it stamped upon the cover. Then, with a strong solution of gum arabic, thinly coated on the backs of the leaves and flowers, paste each one in its proper place on the design. Let them become thoroughly dry, and then finish the edges of the flowers with heavy outline stitch worked with pink filoselle. The centers have a very small circle worked with pale green silk, and the stamens are of yellow. The green leaves are veined with green silk, and the edges embroidered with outline stitch sufficiently to keep the edges from fraying. The stems are worked stem stitch with green silk, except the main stalk, for which brown silk should be used. When the embroidery is finished, the cloth is to be lined with gold-colored silk, or soft cambric, blind stitched on the edges that the sewing may not be seen. Colored silk balls with cords are then placed one inch and a half apart, instead of fringe, around the edge. It is pretty to have the balls of several colors, as, for instance, pink, cardinal, olive-green and gold. These cloths are very durable, and the colors can be varied to harmonize with the room for which they are intended.

SCRAP BASKET.—A comparatively new way to trim a scrap-basket is to put a puff of silk around the top and fasten a large branch of fruit to the side; a beautiful bunch of peaches in pink, with green leaves, comes at $1.25; this on a basket trimmed with a puff of pale turquoise blue China silk makes an attractive ornament for a corner near desk or table. At a recent sale scrap-baskets of goodly size sold as low as 25 cents apiece; they were broken a little at the top, but if these damaged splints were cut off and the place covered with the puff of silk, as suggested, no one would be the wiser. Many bargains may be picked up in this way by the fortunate resident of any city.

SPOOL BAG.—Spool bags for the work-basket are made of any shade of silk or satin faneied. Cut the material fourteen inches long and six inches wide. Turn a narrow end down on each side and across the ends, then stitch in the hem with the sewing-machine. Turn up an inch and one-half across each end and stitch in three divisions for the spools. Cut two pieces of white cashmere or flannel one inch narrower and two inches shorter than the silk; button-hole all around the edges of these leaves with embroidery silk the color of the pockets, and fasten them between the cover. Divide the cover exactly in the middle and gather with silk thread. Sew a ribbon loop to the gathered part and finish with bow and ends.

PARACHUTE CATCH-ALL.—The parachute or parasol catch-all is a household blessing. It will stow away all kinds of knick-knacks, and can be used for a sewing or knitting bag. It is a German housewife, and will be found in every well regulated home. It is pliable, easily rolled up, and the contents, which as I said may consist of all kinds of brushes and even combs, handkerchiefs, ribbons and bows, odds and ends, give it its form, the fuller the better. Take two strips of crimson velvet, cut to a point, then two narrower strips for sides, draw down to a point and tie with ribbon bow of a golden tint of yellow ribbon if effect be wanted. The wide part of the velvet is drawn together with an elastic cord, left loosely enough to let a ball or smaller objects drop through to bottom of the housewife. The lace, ah! there is the beauty of the article. Note how it is put on. Run with a silk thread and only basted on in long milliner's stitches and the lace is embroidered in oriental paisley set designs, in beads and yellow glass. Tulle black lace is used, and the yellow beads glisten on it. Do not use steel or gilt beads; they are more effective, but tarnish. The top of the housewife is of plain satin drawn in with cord strings. I know of no more useful or beautiful house ornamentation article.

KNITTING AND CROCHETING.

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BABY'S SOCK.—Cast on 48 stitches and knit across plain. 1st row.—Knit two together, thread over, knit one, thread over, slip one, knit one, slipped stitch over, seam one, * repeat between the stars all across. Seam the next row, except the seamed stitches, which knit. Knit these two rows until you have twelve rows of holes, then knit across plain three times. Next row.—Thread over, narrow, all the way across. Knit two rows plain, then knit 33 stitches, seam back on sixteen, narrowing them to thirteen. Then knit ten rows of holes as at the top, knit across plain, narrowing the thirteen to nine stitches, seam across once, then bind off. Now pick up twelve stitches on the side of this piece, cast on ten more, which with the seventeen on the needle will make thirty-nine, knit across plain ten times, then narrow at each end of the needle every other time across till you have twenty-nine stitches, and bind off. Pick up the ten stitches cast on and knit across twenty times, widening at the toe end every time you begin there, till you have fourteen stitches, then narrow down to ten the same way; then pick up twelve stitches on the other side the instep, and with the remaining seventeen stitches finish same as first side. This pattern is for three thread Saxony yarn.

SMYRNA LACE.—Cast on 20 stitches. 1st row—Knit across plain; 2d row—Knit to the last six stitches—k to 2—n—k 1—o 2—k 3 plain; 3d row—k 10 plain—o 2—n—k 1—o 2—n—k plain; 4th row—same as 2d; 5th row—k 12 plain—o 2—n—k 1—o 2—n—k out plain; 6th row—same as 2d; 7th row—k 14 plain—o 2—n—k 1—o 2—n—k out plain; 8th row—same as 2d; 9th row—k 16 plain—o 2—n—k 1—o 2—n—k out plain; 10th row—k plain, and have 24 stitches; 11th row—k 2—sl 1—k 1—draw sl 1 over k 1—o 2—n—k 1—n—o 2—n—k out plain; 12th row—k 3—o 2—n—k 1—o 2—n—k out plain; 13th row—k 2—sl 1—k 1—draw sl 1 over k 1—o 2—n—k 3—n—o 2—n—k out plain; 14th row—k 6—o 2—n—k 1—o 2—n—k out plain; 15th row—k 2—sl 1—k 1—draw sl 1 over k 1—o 2—n—k 1—o 2—n—k out plain; 16th row—k 7—o 2—k 1—o 2—n—k out plain; 17th row—k 2—sl 1—k 1—draw sl 1 over k 1—o 2—n—k 1—o 2—n—k out plain; 18th row—k 3—o 2—n—k 1—k 1—k out plain; 19th row—k plain and have 20 stitches, then begin same as 2d row. Where the thread is thrown over twice, knit one and drop the other.

The ladies of the HOUSEHOLD will find this a handsome lace knit with No. 80 linen thread. Knit with as coarse needles as those used for knitting woolen yarn.—ELSIE.

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to a mother's needs in the early training of children; circulate the *Philanthropist* (a paper devoted to the promotion of social purity), among ministers and teachers, and in many ways try to raise the standard of social purity, and especially do they demand an equal standard. A fallen man has no more right to the respect of society than a fallen woman.

In my own county of Mercer, the subject has been presented before teachers' institutes and Sunday school associations, and strong resolutions have been passed by these bodies, the public school teachers in one instance pledging themselves to look more carefully after the morals of their pupils and to guard against the circulation of obscene pictures and books.

In the Sabbath school convention, a delegated body representing 120 Sabbath schools, the following resolution was passed:

"WHEREAS, The necessity of the present time demands plain speech to and careful teaching of the young on the special subjects of purity and chastity, therefore

"*Resolved*, That we recommend that our pastors and teachers use their influence in disseminating the principles of the 'White Cross' and 'White Shield' organizations, and endeavor more earnestly by wise and careful teaching to raise the standard of social purity among the youth of the communities."

Much more might be said of earnest work in the local W. C. T. Unions in this movement, but I have already taken more space than I intended when I began.—NELLIE MCLEASE STEVENSON, County Superintendent Social Purity Work, Leech's Corners, Mercer county, Pa.

"KEEPING COMPANY."—May I make an observation or two on this subject? First, as to company home from church or any small social gathering where the formality of the young man's calling for and accompanying the young lady to church has not been had. Is it best for the young lady to accept the services of one young man only? In some communities there is a sentiment that she must, that to accept the escort of one young man for one or more times and then of another, is to show a fickle mind, and even worse than that, that any one can go home with her, as if she were so anxious for company she would gladly take up with any one. And it has even been made to reflect on the purity of her character. Moreover, if she did not appear at the usual gatherings of her social circle the usual remarks may be vexed and cut her altogether. So her social life becomes a refined sort of bondage and servitude.

The second point is on its independence of young womanhood. I wish to apply its principle to the paying of fares at entertainments where she is paid admittance, and of course do not refer to betrothed persons. Should not a young lady having a young gentleman escort insist on buying her own sicket, paying her own fare? Would it not tend to strengthen her womanhood to put herself under no further obligation to him than the pleasure of his company and the service of his attentions, for which she has rendered some equivalent in kind?

Is not the effect of the opposite practice evil upon both parties—in him to give him a sort of claim upon her, based on a money consideration; in her to accept such a relation without a protest—a condition of mind in each it is impossible to contemplate without pain.—A. B., Alfred Centre, N. Y.

"IF I WERE A WOMAN."—I think I voice the sentiments of every womanly woman when I say we owe to Miss Bouton a vote of thanks for the very able manner in which she resented the way the subject "If I were a Woman" was treated. Not by all, as she plainly stated, for the line between the heartless jester and the earnest and refined is very discernible. When placed in the balance how quickly those jibbering schoolboy phrases would ascend, while the others weighed down. Fair gems of thought were they!

"Short weight is an abomination unto the Lord," and we may earnestly add, likewise unto woman. We certainly did expect more from the pens of those who, no doubt, pride themselves on their intellectual superiority and was certainly disappointed.

When we think of the many good, noble, unselfish, untiring women of this broad and beautiful land, whose very life is given to the bettering of humanity, whose very thought and aim is one of purity and nobleness of purpose. To place those upon the same footing as those of the shop intruder, the street-car patronizer.—"These dolls to amuse in hours of ease."—is quite enough to arouse our indignation. No, we can not take that dose we should be sick, even though it had been given in a capsule which they had no time to manufacture. And, "Mr. Miller," if that is a sample of your good deeds, we would advise you not to make them up, even on Judgment Day, for it will hardly be worth while. Sleep peacefully on, if you can, for slumber will be much sweeter than your hereafter.—MRS. GILEAD, Rising Sun, O.

A NEW WAY OF EARNING MONEY.—I believe there may be a great many among you who want to earn a little money, but don't know just how to go about it. I will tell you how my little cousin, less than 10 years old, earned enough to buy him a bicycle and all the necessaries to go with it. It was by selling hulled corn. He would sell mornings before school, and evenings and Saturdays. He earned five dollars in three days; now I don't say he averaged that, but he did make just one dollar every day, and to-day he could sell twice the amount, for the superior article he sold was appreciated, and every one asks him when he is going to sell more. But now the days are so short he cannot sell except on Saturdays. Now I don't doubt there are a great many among you who have boys who can take a little cart and a jar of corn and pint cup, and bring in many a stray dime. He sold his at 10 cents per quart. Below is the recipe (his grandma did the making, and she got a nice dressing bureau for her share of the profits); so me one please try, and report: Take two quarts of lye to eight quarts of corn; boil in the lye one hour, add water as the corn swells, or it will burn.—MRS. ESTHER G. BURLINGAME, Conneaut, O.

Thanks for pleasant words. We should be glad to have the series of articles you speak of.—ED.

TEACHING GIRLS TO SEW.—I was very much pleased with Montana May's letter on teaching young girls to sew. I have raised three daughters and know something about it. I taught them to sew first with the needle, and it is no hard task now for them to make a garment complete with a needle. Some things they prefer to make by hand, and, like myself, say that, when done, they think more of it than if it was made on a machine. Yes, Montana May, we would like to see that little healthy child you spoke of, and in return would show you one who never had on a band. He is ten months old, never was sick, and is a fine, healthy child. He is my grandchild. We all like THE BLADE.—MRS. SAM. DOUGLAS, Stevens, Wash.

INQUIRIES.

I have twenty pounds of Sabbath school literature, consisting of back numbers of the *Westminster Quarterly*, in magazine form. They contain Sunday school lessons, and are a help in studying portions of Scripture. If any one will send postage for any of them, I will supply them.—E. C. TORRANCE, Crabtree P. O., Westmoreland county, Pa.

Can any of the readers of the HOUSEHOLD tell me through these columns whether, with the excellent public schools every where, there is any demand in our towns and cities for nursery governesses? think I would like such a situation, and would be much obliged if any one who has ever filled that position would give a programme of the daily duties that were required of them.—SARAH.

Will some reader of the HOUSEHOLD that understands organizing and carrying on a literary society be so kind as to inform an anxious inquirer?—MISS A. M. B., East Greenwich, N. Y.

Will some one give directions for crocheting a fascinator?—M. B. M.

Will some one please give directions for painting animals? Would like plain instructions for painting the eyes of same.—FARMER'S WIFE.

If any of the readers of the HOUSEHOLD will send me a self-addressed envelope I will send them five different kinds of flower seeds.—GEORGE E. FIELD, Valparaiso, Ind.

Will THE BLADE sisters please send me a square, 8 by 8 inches, with name of sender and state worked upon it for a United States crazy quilt? Would like one from every state and territory where THE BLADE goes. The quilt, when finished, to be sold for missionary purposes.—NETTIE M. CHEEVER, 721 Union street, Emporia, Kan.

Will some of the kind readers of THE BLADE please send me some nice pieces fit to be recited at a Christmas entertainment? I would like some dialogues. Address Maggie Ambrose, Knoxville, Tenn.

Will you kindly tell me through THE BLADE if there is a school for training nurses either in Chicago or Detroit, and how would I have to do to gain admittance? I will await anxiously your reply.—C. S.

Will some one send the address to the HOUSEHOLD?—ED.

Can any one tell me what will exterminate, what I call "mealy bugs," from house plants? They are a white, flat bug and sometimes form a small white web.—MALCOM.

I would like some good pieces of poetry suitable to speak on Children's day, Sunday school picnics, or at school.—ELLA BLAINE, Lamar, Ottawa county, Kan.

Will some one send pattern of crotcheted boot for baby, to the HOUSEHOLD?

Have any of the readers directions for knitting or crocheting lace curtains?—ELLA.

Would like, through the HOUSEHOLD department, a recipe for making communion bread.—A READER.

I wish some of the readers of THE BLADE would send me some old story books or papers.—ROSIEBELLE TALBOTT, Stockton, Kan.

I have 6,000 cancelled United States postage stamps. Can any of the readers of THE BLADE tell me if there is any place where I can dispose of them for any price? —ELLA. There is no demand for them. —ED.

If any of the many readers of THE BLADE have the song "Trip to Niagara Falls," I would be very grateful if they would send me the words.—FRED SABIN, Oswego Center, N. Y.

Will some one send to me some nice selections for an exhibition? Anything that they have and would part with. Please send immediately. My father is one of THE BLADE'S old subscribers, and this is the first time I have written.—BELLE WELLS, Louisville, Monongahela county, W. Va.

Will some one having the poem, the first stanza of which reads:

"From Sumpter came the sound of war,
The music of the boisterous drum,
The roar of cannon from afar,
Why sit ye longer idle, dumb?"

please send it to THE BLADE for publication in the War Songs, if the editor does not object.—READER.

Will De Vere Fero please send simpler plan for Kensington painting, of which she spoke?—GRACE.

If "Myrtle" will send to my address a small sample of hem stitching, together with her address, I will send in return sample of borders for handkerchiefs, etc. —LENNIE BRIGHT, Floyd, Iowa.

ANSWERS TO INQUIRIES.

I would say to Argenta, Ills., box 84, I can give you a formula for instructing beginners in music. In the first place, get a good instruction book (I think "Judd's National Guide" one of the best I ever used). I give the scales, beginning with C. Let them learn the position of the letters on the two staffs first—it is very important that they learn this well—then, after learning the names of the notes, rests, time, fingering, etc., give some easy five-finger exercise. This is good: 1st in 4-4 time, CD, CD, CD, CD, ED, ED, EF, EF, four times, ED, GF, ED, ED, EF, EF, four times, CD, ED, ED, EF. Then take the same run of notes in 8ths. Then give them the arpeggios and broken chords of C. After you have given a lesson or two, give some simple study or exercise. The pupil should take the scales, finger exercises, arpeggios and broken chords all through the first and second terms. I have found this to be a good method of teaching. I hope I have made it plain to you. If there is anything you do not understand, I will gladly inform you to the best of my ability. I got this method of teaching from a lady living in Elkhart, Ind., who has taught vocal and instrumental music and harmony for a number of years. She taught four years in the Normal conservatory of music, Portland, Ind., has since moved to Elkhart, and is now married, and like myself, loves music so well she still teaches in her own home. Hears from 20 to 30 pupils. She has met with good success, and I have found her method of teaching excellent. I tried using parlor matches to remove stains from the hands, and was surprised to see how nicely it came off after washing in soft water. If P. Dannel, Kemper, Ill., will try putting a small piece of zinc in the fire he will soon see the soot "fly out of the stove pipe." I would like very much to correspond with some one living in the "Sunny South."—BLONDIE.

If those troubled with a shiny face will use common corn starch, they will find it a splendid remedy.—MRS. E. B. L.

I would like to tell the sisters of the HOUSEHOLD of another deception. The firm that advertises to send an upholstered parlor set for 95 cents send a child's toy set, worth about 25 cents. I have seen from time to time requests for music and reading. I have quite an accummulation of sheet music, musical magazines, and music books in good condition; also religious and other reading. Will send to all sending postage as long as the supply lasts.—A. REED, Covington, Ind.

Is a man "six feet" high or "six foot?" Which are we to use feet and when foot?—HAYSEKER.

"A man is six feet high." "It is a two-foot rule." These examples furnish the rule. When used adjectively, and placed before the noun, the word "foot" and the numeral adjective are compounded. Used after the noun, "feet" must be used.—ED.

To "Subscriber" who wanted to know where to get the song book called "The Acme," if his address is sent to me, I will tell where to get the book. It has all of the songs in it that were spoken of.—MARY A. E. SMITH, West Lebanon, Warren county, Ind.

I will send the music promised as soon after the holidays as possible.—M. R. B.

RECIPES.

COOKIES.—1 cupful sugar, ½ cupful shortening, 5 teablespoonfuls sweet milk, a pinch of saleratus, flour to mix; roll thin and bake; season to taste.—MRS. G. M.

TO POACH EGGS.—I have discovered (to me at least) a new way of poaching eggs. Instead of water, use good, strong beef or chicken broth; break in a sufficient number of eggs to allow the yolks to be about an inch apart, the whites overlapping, and cook until the yolks thicken. If eaten in a little of the hot broth, in which is some cracker crumbs, they are delicious. Please try and report.—ELSA.

JELLY CREAM PIE.—1 cupful sugar, ½ cupful sweet cream, ½ cupful new milk, 1 egg, 1 teaspoonful baking powder, and flour to make a thin batter; bake on two plates. These are delicious.—MARY.

POOR MAN'S PUDDING.—1 cupful each of New Orleans molasses, sweet milk, chopped suet and raisins, stoned and chopped fine; 3 cupfuls of flour, 1 teaspoonful of salt, and 1 of soda. Season with ground cinnamon. Steam three hours; serve with sauce, given below:

PUDDING SAUCE.—1 cupful of sugar, ½ cupful of butter, beaten to a cream; add 1 beaten egg, 1 teaspoonful flour, ¾ of a teacupful of boiling water, and boil until clear.—MINNIE.

SAUSAGES.—For 100 pounds of meat, finely chopped or ground, 2¼ pounds of fine salt, 8 ounces of black pepper and 8 ounces of sage, finely pulverized and sifted.

SALTED HAMS.—Pack them in a cask; to 100 pounds add 10 pounds of salt, ¾ pound of saltpeter and 1 quart of molasses; dissolve these in sufficient water to cover the hams, and let them stay five weeks. Then take out, drain, and smoke to taste.—MARY.

LEMON PIE.—Grate one lemon, mixing the juice with the grated rind; take one cupful of boiling water, one cupful of sugar, yolks of two eggs, a piece of butter about the size of an egg, one slice of broken bread, fine, without the crust. When done, beat the whites of the two eggs, with four spoonfuls of sugar and a few drops of lemon, and spread over the top; return to the oven, and brown lightly.—LIZZIE.

CHICKEN DUMPLINGS.—One pint of flour, one tablespoonful of baking powder, mixed with flour; one teaspoonful of salt, one egg, well beaten; one cupful of sweet milk. Mix all well together; check the broth from boiling, and add butter, one tablespoonful at a time, and let them boil fifteen minutes.—IOWA ROSA.

HONEY CAKES.—One cupful of butter, one cupful of sour cream, two cupfuls of strained honey, three cupfuls of flour, a small-sized teaspoonful of saleratus; three eggs, and a nutmeg. Mixed and baked like molasses cup cake.—S. O. M.

CHRISTMAS CAKE.—One pound of flour, 1 of butter, 12 eggs, 2 lbs. of currants, 2 of raisins, 1 of citron; lemon, nutmeg and mace to taste. Beat it very light. The fruit should be floured and stirred in last, and more flour added if necessary. Bake in one large tin in a well-heated oven for four or five hours, letting it cool gradually in the oven. When perfectly cold it may be frosted.

OYSTER SANDWICH.—Split the crackers and butter them; lay oysters between; salt and pepper; butter. Bake five minutes.—RACHEL.

FROSTING.—Try chocolate frosting on custard pie. Cook the frosting over a pan of hot water. I sometimes add a small cupful of chocolate to my cornstarch pudding.—RACHEL.

HORSFORD'S ACID PHOSPHATE
For Abuse of Alcohol.
It relieves the depression therefrom.

Our Young Folks.

BLADE TEMPERANCE LEGION.

MOTTO: "Of Ourselves We Will be Masters."

Pledge:

We do hereby promise ourselves that, from this time until we are 21 years old, we will not taste intoxicating liquors of any kind, and that we will exert all our influence to prevent their use by others. Witness our names:

ALMOND, N. Y.	Don Hoover
Winnie A Pryor	Willie Hillyard
Cora Travis	Benny Gebhart
Allie Tucker	John Fleisher
PONTIAC, N. Y.	Floyd L Hollinger
J Ward Train	Dallas C Hollinger
E DeRoy Train	Orie I Hollinger
Ernest V Train	KEWANNA, IND.
PHILLIPSBURG, KAS.	Myrtle A Wilson
Albert E Dowse	Ernest D Wilson
Belle Hoover	Walter W Wilson
Flora Hillyard	Grace M Wilson
Charley Woods	Myrtle Wilson

Names this week, 22. Total, 27,992.

The above embraces all names received up to December 20.

TWO LITTLE STOCKINGS.

Two little stockings hung side by side,
Close to the fireplace broad and wide.
"Two?" said Saint Nick, as down he came,
Loaded with toys and many a game.
"Ho, ho!" said he, with a laugh of fun,
"I'll have no cheating, my pretty one;
I know who dwells in this house, my dear,
There's only one little girl lives here."
So he crept up close to the chimney-place,
And measured a sock with sober face.
Just then a wee little note fell out
And fluttered low like a bird so stout.
"Aha, what's this?" said he in surprise,
As he pushed his specs close up to his eyes,
And read the address in a child's rough plan,
"Dear Saint Nicholas," so it began;
"The other stocking you see on the wall
I have hung for a child named Clara Hall,
She's a poor little girl, but very good,
So I thought, perhaps, you kindly would
Fill up her stocking, too, to-night,
And help to make her Christmas bright.
If you've not enough for both stockings there,
Please put all in Clara's, I shall not care."
Saint Nicholas brushed a tear from his eye,
And, "God bless you, darling," he said with a sigh.

Then softly he blew through the chimney high
A note like a bird's, as it soars on high,
When down came two of the funniest mortals
That ever were seen this side earth's portals.
"Hurry up," said Saint Nick, "and nicely prepare
All a little girl needs where money is rare."
Then oh, what a scene there was in that room!
Away went the elves, but down from the gloom
Of the sooty old chimney comes tumbling low,
A child's whole wardrobe, from head to toe.
How Santa Claus laughed, as he gathered them in
And fastened each one to the sock with a pin.
Right to the toe he hung a blue dress,
"She'll think it came from the sky, I guess,"
Said Saint Nicholas, smoothing the folds of blue.

Our Biblical Story.

JOSHUA;

A Story of Egyptian-Israelitish Life.

BY PROF. GEORG EBERS,

AUTHOR OF "UARDA," "AN EGYPTIAN PRINCESS," ETC.—NOW FIRST PUBLISHED.

CHAPTER XXIII.

THE song of praise had died away, and the storm had long since ceased; yet the morning sky, which had been red at dawn, was again covered with gray clouds, and a strong wind still blew from the southwest, disturbing the lake and shaking and rocking the crowns of palms which stood by the wells. The rescued people had now betaken themselves to the shore, where the waves, like generous robbers, disgorged and washed up on the sand that which they had engulfed during the night.

Nor did the women ever allow the wind to hinder them, for covetousness and revenge, the most powerful instincts in the human breast, drew them to the shore.

Some new object appeared every moment to excite their greed; for here lay the corpse of a warrior, and there his overthrown chariot in the sand. From this, if it had been the possession of a great man, they tore the silver or golden ornaments; from the owner they took his short sword or battle-ax out of his girdle, and men and women of the common class, slaves and slave women of the Hebrews, and the strangers, robbed the bodies of their clasps and bracelets, which were of precious metal, or tore the rings from the swollen fingers of the drowned.

Miriam and Ephraim had gone do wn to the shore to witness the scenes being enacted there. Though the maiden was now the wife of Hur, her demeanor and character had been very little altered by her marriage. The fate of the people and her relations with her God, whose prophetess she felt she was, were still her highest thought; and now that all she had hoped and prayed for was being fulfilled, now that she had given expressions to the feelings of the faithful song, marching in front of the thankful multitude, she considered she attained the summit of her existence.

Ephraim had just mentioned the lovely Egyptian woman who loved his uncle, and at whose petition the chains had been taken off the prisoners, when a loud cry was raised on a part of the shore where a great crowd had collected.

Here in all rage and wild confusion of joy went together, obviously caused by the fact that the sea had thrown up something particularly valuable on land. Curiosity attracted them both to the spot; and as Miriam's proud dignity caused the people to stand aside, she soon caught sight of the body of a traveling chariot which had lost its wheels, and of its pitiable contents. The linen canopy which had screened it was torn away, and lying on the floor were two elderly Egyptian women; a third, much younger, lay against the back seat of this singular vehicle, which had thus become a boat. The first two lay dead in the water that covered the bottom of the carriage, and several Hebrew women were in the act of tearing off the costly ornaments from the throat and arms of one of them. The younger woman had escaped death by a wonderful chance, and now she was offering her very precious jewels to the Hebrew women. At the same time, with pale, quivering lips and slender, half-benumbed hands, she was promising the robbers, in a soft, harmonious voice, to give them all she had, and a handsome reward in money as well, if they would spare her life. She was still so young, and she had been kind, very kind, to Hebrews; they would not hear her. Thus her petition sounded entreating, though it was interrupted so frequently with curses and groans that little of it was audible. Just as Miriam and Ephraim reached the shore she screamed aloud, for a brutal woman tore the gold snake from her ear. The Egyptian girl's cry of anguish struck the youth like a sword thrust, and the color left his face as he recognized Kasana's voice.

The corpses by her were those of her nurse and of Bak's wife.

Ephraim, almost beside himself, thrust aside the men who separated him from the victim on one side and hastened toward the remains of the chariot; sprang into the sand-bank at the foot of which the vehicle was stranded, and cried, with burning cheeks and impetuous passion:

"Back! Woe to those who touch her!"

But a Hebrew woman, the wife of a brickmaker, whose child had died in frightful convulsions on the journey through the sea, had already snatched the dagger from Kasana's girdle and had stabbed her in the back, with the cry: "That's for my little Ruth! Wretch!"

She raised the bloody poignard for a second blow; but before she could strike her enemy again, Ephraim, leaping down the bank, wrenched away the knife. Then, standing in front of the hapless creature, he shouted in loud menace: "Murderers and thieves! If one of you dares to touch her, his blood shall mingle with that of this woman!" With these words he fell on his knees by the side of the bleeding victim, and, finding that she had lost consciousness, he lifted her in his arms and carried her to Miriam.

The startled plunderers for a few minutes suffered him to do as he would, but before he had gained his end, a cry was raised of: "Vengeance, vengeance! We found the woman, and the body is ours alone." "How dare the haughty Ephraimite call us robbers and murderers?" "When there's a chance of shedding Egyptian blood, it shall flow!" "The Lord our God spares not, nor do we!" "Seize him!" "Seize the girl!"

But the lad paid no heed to this outbreak of rage till Kasana's head was resting on Miriam's bosom, where she was sitting on a sandhill near at hand, and then, as the angry crowd rushed upon him, the women outstripping the men, he once more flushed deep red, and cried: "Back! Hold off! I tell you once more. If there are any men here of Ephraim or Judah, let them come to my side, or to Miriam's, the wife of their chief! Well done, my brethren, and woe to him who lays a hand on me! Woe, woe, do you say? Are you not avenged by that hyena which has murdered this poor defenseless creature? Your victim's jewels? Well, well; they are yours, and I will give you my own as a thank offering so long as you leave the wife of Hur free to care for the dying woman!"

He bent over Kasana, took from her person all she had about her of pins and rings, and placed them in the greedy hands stretched out to receive them; then he took the broad gold band from his own arm, held it up, and cried: "This is the promised ransom. Go back quietly and leave this woman to Miriam, and you shall have it to share among you. If you thirst for blood, come on—but, then, I keep the bracelet!"

These words did not fail in their effect. The angry women looked first at the heavy, broad gold band and then at the splendid youth, and the men of Judah and Ephraim who had rallied round him; and then gazed inquiringly at each other. At last the wife of a foreign trader cried out: "Give us the gold, and we will leave the wounded darling to the chief's wife!"

The rest agreed to this decision, although the furious brickmaker's wife, who meant to have done a good pleasing in the eyes of her god by avenging her child, and had in consequence been accused as a murderess, still threatened Ephraim with frantic gestures till she was dragged on by the crowd who hoped to find fresh booty there.

Through all the tumult Miriam, without a qualm of fear, had examined and bound up Kasana's wounds with a skillful hand. The dagger, a gift in jast from Prince Siptah, that his fair one might not go forth to battle unarmed, had inflicted a deep stab under one shoulder, and she had lost so much blood that the feeble creature seemed to die out at every breath. But she still lived, and she was carried into Nun's tent, as being the nearest at hand.

When she was laid on his couch, and Nun had placed his medicine chest at the prophetess' service, Miriam desired the men to leave her alone with the sufferer; and when she called them back into the tent, she had revived Kasana with some drug and bound her wound with great care. The latter had been soundly arranged and the blood all washed away, she lay between fresh linen sheets like a sleeping child, hardly looking as if she had attained woman's estate. And she still breathed, though the blood had not returned to her lips or cheeks, and it was not till she had again swallowed the mixture which Miriam had prepared for her that she opened her eyes.

At the foot of the bed stood the old man and his grandson, and each would fain have asked the other how it came to pass that he could not refrain his tears as he looked into the face of this stranger.

The conviction which Ephraim had so unexpectedly gained, that Kasana was base and false-hearted, had revolted him, and frightened him back into the right way, which he had left. Nevertheless, he had kept all his bold overbearing in the tent locked in his own heart, and when he had told his grandfather and Miriam that Kasana had interceded kindly for the prisoners, and both had desired to learn more from him, he had felt as a father might, who had witnessed the crime of a beloved son, and not a word of the horrors he had heard passed his lips. Now, he was glad he had kept silence; for in spite of all he had seen and heard, this pure and lovely creature was surely incapable of anything dishonorable.

Old Nun had never ceased to think of her as the sweet child he had known so well, the apple of his eye and joy of his heart. He looked down on the quivering features with tender pity, and when at length she opened her eyes, he smiled at her with fatherly affection. The light in her eyes showed that she, too, at once recognized him and Ephraim, but when she tried to nod her head to them she was too weak. Still, her expressive face confessed her surprise and pleasure; and when Miriam, for the third time, offered her the draught, and moistened her brow with some strong essence, she looked from one to another with her large eyes, and seeing their sympathy, made she was able to say, in a low voice: "These wounds ache so, and death——Shall I die?" They glanced inquiringly at each other, and the men would very gladly have concealed the fearful truth, but she would not: "O, let me know; tell me the truth, I pray you!"

And Miriam, who was kneeling on the ground by her side, found courage to reply: "Yes, poor, young thing, the wound is deep; but all my art may do to save you shall be done, to preserve your life as long as possible."

The words were spoken kindly and compassionately, and yet the prophetess's deep voice seemed to jar on Kasana's ear; her lips quivered painfully as she heard them, and when she ceased the sufferer closed her eyes and large tears flowed down her cheeks.

Deep and anxious silence reigned till she opened her eyes once more, and fixing them sadly on Miriam's face asked, as if in amazement at something strange, "You, a woman, are learned in the leech's art?"

To which Miriam replied: "My God hath bidden me to care for the sufferers among my people."

At this the dying woman's eyes sparkled uneasily, and she exclaimed in a stronger voice, indeed with a vigor that surprised her hearers: "You are Miriam, the woman who went for Joshua's sake to Egypt," and when Miriam replied unhesitatingly and simply: "As you say," Kasana went on: "And you are, indeed, of great and majestic beauty and must be capable of great things! I would have loved you and you—you doubtless nevertheless marry another?"

A painful cough here checked her utterance; as soon as she had recovered her breath she turned to Miriam again and went on, in a voice so full of bitter aversion that those who knew her kindly nature: "It is you—you, tall woman with a man's voice, and the learning of a leech—you who beguiled him from Tanis, and from me. He went and came and did your bidding. And you—you became another man's wife as I must have known after his coming; yes—for when Ephraim brought your message he spoke of you as a maiden. Whether it was a grief to Joshua I know not. But another t ing I know, that in this land it is no shame but to confess before it is too late. And none may hear it but those who love him, and I—do you hear?—I love him more than all else on earth! You! you have a husband, and a God whose bidding you zealously obey—as you yourself have said. What is Joshua to you? I beg you to leave us. Very few have I asked in my life to whom I could kneel kindly, but you I—I cannot love, I know not why,—and if you remain near me I cannot speak—and I must—and it hurts me so to speak! But before you go—you are a physician—tell me one thing! I have so many things to say to him before I die—will it kill me if I speak?"

And again the prophetess found no reply but her brief, "As you say," and her tone was one of stern warning.

Hesitating between the duty she owed to the sufferer as her physician, and her desire not to contravene the wishes of a dying creature, she glanced at old Nun, and reading in his face a command to yield to Kasana's wish she bent her head and nodded the tent.

As soon as Kasana found herself alone with the grandfather and grandson, and Ephraim had fallen on his knees by the bedside, while he old man, after kissing her brow, stood with his heavy head bent to hear her low tones, she began again:

"Now I am easier. That tall woman—her knit black brows—her eyes as dark as night—they are fiery indeed, and yet not a true woman——Did Joshua love her, father? Tell me. I do not ask out of idle curiosity."

"He honored her," replied the old man in some trouble, "as do all our people. She is of a lofty spirit, and could not have lived as the wife of a herdsman."

But you, sweet one, were dear to him even as a child; that I know."

A slight shudder ran through her frame. For a short space she closed her eyes and a blissful smile lighted up her face. Then it faded, and that Nun thought the fatal death had already claimed her, and he leaned over her, listening to her breathing, with the draught in his hand. She did not seem to see him; but when at last she looked up again, she put out her hand for the cup, drank it empty, and then went on: "I felt as though he were there before me—Joshua himself. He wore his warrior's dress, as he did the first time he took me on his arm. I was but a little child, and I was grieved that I must go home again. At last, at last, he returned, and how glad I was to see him once more! But he himself! That woman—that tall woman—that proud woman bid him go to Pithom. Yet he came back from thence, and then, O Nun, That was hardest of all to bear—he refused my hand when my father offered it. That—ah, how it hurts me! I can no more—give me the cup again."

Her cheeks had colored slightly as she made this painful confession; and the old man, perceiving how quickly the efforts she was making were bringing her to the end, begged her to be silent. But she insisted on making use of what little time remained to her, and though a piercing pain and tormenting short cough forced her to press her hand to her bosom she went on;

"Then I hated him; but not for long, and I never loved him more than when I went after the hapless prisoner—you know, boy. And then came the dreadful, horrible time, the shameful things—but he must know it all that he may not despise me if he ever hears. I never knew my mother, and there was no one to warn me——Where shall I begin? Prince Siptah—you know him, father—the bad man who will soon be lord over Egypt. My father is in a plot with him. Great gods! I can speak no more!"

Terror and despair were painted in her face; but Ephraim broke in and confessed with fearful eyes and a trembling voice all he had overheard by he tent that night, and she confirmed it with assenting glances. When at last he spoke of the high priest Bale's wife, whose body had been thrown on the strand by Kasana's side, she interrupted him in a low voice, saying, "She devised it all. She wanted her husband to be supreme in the land, and saw even Pharaoh, for Siptah is no king's son.

"Aye," said the old man, trying to stop her speaking and to help her to tell all she wished to make known, "and as Bale raised him up, so can he overturn him. He, even more surely than his predecessor, will be the tool of the high priests and rule as a shim king. I know Aarsu, the Syrian, and, if I am not deceived, the time is coming when he will aim at seizing the reins of power in Egypt, torn as it will be by internal divisions, though he and his mercenaries will have to fight hard with all their energy to hold their own against others to snatch them. But you, child, what prompted you to follow the army and that profligate traitor?"

Kasana's eyes gleamed more brightly again, for the question led directly to the matter of which she had spoken before, and she replied as clearly as her failing strength allowed, "It was for your son's sake—for love of him—to procure his release. Only the evening before I had refused positively to go with Bale's wife. It was the first time I had ever been angry with her, and he—ah, he was so kind at last, and kissed my brow! And I saw him in misery—alas, poor heart! I saw the best of men doomed to perish in disgrace and sickness. And when he went forward with chains on his feet it suddenly struck me."

"Then, brave, foolish, misguided child that you are, you determined to win the devotion of the future king in order to secure the release of your friend, my son!"

The dying woman smiled and said softly, "Yes, yes; for that and that alone. And I loathed the prince. And the disgrace, the shame—horrible, horrible!"

"Say it was for your son's sake that you endured it all," cried the old man interrupting her, and her hand which he pressed to his lips was wet with his tears, while she turned to Ephraim and sighed: "And I though of this lad, too. He is so grave, and the mines so terrible——"

Again she shuddered. The boy covered her hand with kisses while she looked tenderly in his face and his grandfather's, and added: "Now all is well, and if the gods grant him freedom——"

Here Ephraim broke in. "We are setting forth this very day for the mines. I and my comrades and my grandfather will drive his keepers to the four winds——"

"And the lad shall learn from my own lips," said Nun, "how truly Kasana loved him, and his whole life will be too short to thank her for such a sacrifice."

His voice failed him. But every trace of trouble had vanished from the dying woman's face, and she lay for some time gazing upwards in silent contentment. But then, by degrees, an anxious frown came on her brow, and she softly gasped out: "It is well—yes, all is well—but yet one thing. My body, unembalmed—with no holy amulets——"

And here Nun again interrupted her, saying: "As soon as we have closed your eyes I will deliver it, safely wrapped, to the Phœnician seaman who is close at hand, that he may convey it to your father."

She tried to turn her head to thank him with a loving glance; but suddenly she clutched at her throat with both hands, dark blood rose to her lips, a tright flame lit up her cheeks and faded to dead white, and after a short and painful struggle she sank back. Dead had laid his hand on the loving heart, and her face wore the look of a child's whose mother has forgiven it some fault, and kissed it before it fell asleep.

CHAPTER XXIV.

THE PRISONERS were making their way but slowly to the mines. Never in all his experience had the leader of the gang known a worse journey through the desert, more luckless in every way, or so beset with mishaps and hindrances. One of the "moles," Ephraim, to wit, had made his escape; he had lost one of his faithful hounds; and after his gang had been terrified and drenched by such a storm as scarcely befell once in five years in all that thirsty tract, another overtook them on the following day—the same in which Pharaoh and his host had perished—even more violent and persistent than the first. The tempest had stopped their march, and after this second deluge some of his prisoners and men had sickened with fever from sleeping on the wet ground in the open air. Even the Egyptian asses, unaccustomed to the rain, had suffered from the wetting, and the best had been left to die on the way.

All this had a bad effect on the man's temper, though he was commonly regarded as the most lenient of his tribe, and Joshua, as the accomplice of the audacious rascal whose escape was the beginning of all these vexations, was the chief victim of his wrath. Angry as he was, the leader of the gang might perhaps have dealt more mercifully with him if he had bewailed his lot like the man next behind him, or cursed as loudly as his companion in chains, who spent is breath in threats of a time coming when his sister-in-law would be in attendance on Pharaoh, and she would find some way to punish the man who had ill-treated her dear sister's husband.

But Joshua had made up his mind to take all the rough driver and his men could do to him with as calm submission as the scorching sun which had tortured him many a time ere this during his marches across the desert, under arms; and his manly spirit and strong will helped him to keep that resolution. When the driver loaded him with a monstrous burthen, he collected all the strength of his powerful muscles and tottered forward under it without a rebellious word till his knees gave way; and then his tyrant would fly at him, snatch a few bales from off his shoulders, and declare he knew all the wicked tricks of his race, and that if Joshua hoped for weal that he might have to be left on the way and so bring his driver into further trouble; but he would not let his prisoner cheat him of their lives when hands were needed in the mines.

Once the man inflicted a deep wound; but he was immediately most anxiously careful that it should not be fatal; gave him water to strengthen him, and delayed the caravan for half a day that he might rest.

On the fifth evening the gang stopped to rest by a lofty mountain which nature seemed to have piled up out of the layers of stone; and at sunrise on the sixth morning, they turned off down a valley leading to the mines.

For half an hour longer they toiled along the dry bed of a torrent, with high banks on each side; after a heavy rain a rolling mountain stream had rushed down this gully to the lower ground, and even now a few pools were exhaling their moisture. When the melancholy train had made their way round a steep shoulder of rock, which stood like a small Egyptian temple to Hathor and a considerable number of grave-stones, they found themselves close to a bend in the ravine, which led to the gorge where the mines lay.

Flags were waving from tall masts in front of the temple, in honor of Pharaoh's birthday; and when presently a noise came up from the valley, usually so silent, of shouts, and tumult, and clatter, the driver expressed his opinion that the high festival was being kept by the prisoners with unwonted jollity, saying so to the other guards, who had paused to listen.

Though so near their journey's end, the wanderers tottered forward as if in sleep, and no shout fell from their lips; but when at last they came in sight of the mines, Joshua raised his head and threw himself to the service of his people.

But it was not for long that they might allow themselves to revel in the joy of this happy meeting; the battle was still to be won, and Nun, as a matter of course, transferred his command to Joshua.

With thankful gladness, and yet not without a pang of regret, Joshua heard of the end which had overtaken the fine army among whose captains he had long been proud to reckon himself; and he rejoiced to learn that also other company of armed shepherds had gone under the leadership of Hur, Miriam's husband, to surprise the torquoise mines at Dophka, at about an hour's march further to the south, and were victorious as they were to rejoin the young men under Ephraim before sundown.

These ardent spirits were burning to fall upon the Egyptians once more; Joshua, who was present, could read it in their looks and, had, indeed, no doubt that they would succumb to the fierce herdsman who far outnumbered them. But he was anxious to avoid bloodshed in this fight which was being waged for his sake, so he desired Ephraim to cast him a plumy leaf from the date trees, borrowed a shield, and went forward alone to speak with the enemy, waving his symbol of peace. The chief body of the Egyptians were guarding the entrance to the mines, and, recognizing the token which invited a parley, they desired their captain to meet Joshua. This officer was nothing loth to grant the Hebrew an interview, but he would first make himself acquainted with the contents of a letter which had just been delivered to him, and which must contain evil tidings, for that much could be gathered from the messenger's demeanor, and from a few broken but ominous words which he had murmured to his fellow Egyptians.

While some of Pharaoh's soldiers fetched refreshment for the exhausted and travel-stained runner, listening with horror to the tidings he panted out in hoarse accents, the officer read the letter.

His brow darkened, and when he had ended he clutched the papyrus fiercely in his hand, for it announced nothing less than the destruction of the army, the death of Pharaoh Menephtah, and, moreover, that his eldest surviving son had been proclaimed and crowned as Seti the second; an attempt on the part of Prince Siptah to possess himself of the throne having completely failed, this prince had fled to the marsh-lands of the Delta, and the Syrian, Aarsu, after deserting him and ranging himself on the side of the new king, had been raised to the command of the whole army of mercenaries. Bale, the high priest and supreme judge, had been deprived of his offices by Seti II., and banished from court. Those who had conspired with Siptah were condemned, not to the copper mines, but to the gold mines of Ethiopia. It was also reported that several women attached to the family of the fugitive usurper had been strangled, certainly his mother. Every fighting-man who could be spared from the mines was to return forthwith to Tanis, as there was need of men for the newly-constituted legions.

Those tidings produced a great effect; for, after Joshua had communicated to the Egyptian captain the fact that he, too, knew of the destruction of the Egyptian host, and expected fresh reinforcements in a few hours, who had, meanwhile, been sent to reduce Dophka, the Egyptian surrendered to his imperious tone, and only sought favorable terms and leave to depart. He knew that his power was weak was the forces in charge of the turquoise mines, and he could look for no succor from headquarters. Besides this, the person of the envoy captivated his confidence, so, after many excuses and debate, he confessed himself satisfied with Joshua's permission to withdraw the garrison unharmed, with their beasts of burthen and provisions for the journey. This, to be sure, was not to be granted till they had laid down their arms and shown the Hebrew in every entrance to the mines where prisoners were working.

The young Hebrews proceeded forthwith to disarm the Egyptians, who were more than twice their number, and many a veteran's eye was moist, while many an one broke his spear or nicked his arrows, cursing and swearing the while; and some of the older men who had formerly served under Joshua, and now recognized him, raised their fists and railed at him for a traitor.

It was always the refuse of the troops which was sent on service in this wilderness; most of the men were stamped with traces of evil living, and their faces were dull and cruel. On the banks of the Nile, those were carefully chosen who made ruthless brutality to the heipless their duty.

At le t the mines were opened, and Joshua himself raised the trained hammer, made his way into the sweltering galleries where the state prisoners, naked and loaded with fetters, were hewing out the copper ore. From a distance he could hear the swallow-a led picks hacking at the hard stone, the miserable wailing of men and women in torment fell on his ear, for barbarous drivers pursued them into these depths and goaded the idlers to bestir themselves.

When the victims heard Joshua's footsteps echoing from the bare rock-wall, they feared lest some new torment should be coming upon them, and their cries and lamentations were heard on all sides. But the deliver had soon reached the first of the toilers, and the blind, lifeless,

News of the Week.

Under this head we aim to give a summary of all important events occurring within the week, in compact yet easily understood form, accompanied by such explanations as may be necessary to a perfect comprehension. We regard this as a feature of the greatest value to all our readers, and especially to the younger members of the family.

WASHINGTON NEWS.

APPOINTMENTS.

The Men Whom the President has Made Happy with Offices.

The President transmitted to the Senate the following nominations on December 19: War—Second Lieutenant Edwin R. Babbitt, 5th Artillery, to be first lieutenant ordnance department; First Lieut. Ormond M. Lassak, 4th Artillery, first lieutenant ordnance department; Sergeant Daniel Lunsford, 2d Artillery, second lieutenant 6th Cavalry; Sergeant Frederick S. Wild, 17th Infantry, second lieutenant 17th Infantry; First Sergeant Robert Alexander, 4th Infantry, second lieutenant 7th Infantry; also a large number of recess nominations.

The President transmitted to the Senate the following nominations on Dec 20:

Treasury—Collectors of customs, Thomas H. Johnston, Charleston, S. C.; Charles Y. Osborne, Saginaw, Mich.; James S Barstall, appraiser of merchandise, port of Cincinnati; Edward G. Frothingham, special examiner of drugs, medicines and chemicals at Boston and Charlestown, Mass.

Postmasters: Peter C. Van Matre, Holden, Mo.; Charles H. Gere, Lincoln, Neb.; David H. Swaim, Bluffton, Ind; Edward A. Jernegan, Mishawka, Ind.; S. D. Byrum, Liberty, Ind.; Rinaldo J. Tilton, Ottumwa, Iowa.

Also a large number of recess appointments.

All Sent In.

The nominations sent to the Senate by the President on December 21, were all of postmasters appointed during the recess, which were published at the time of appointment. This batch completes the list of recess appointments of postmasters.

CONFIRMATIONS.

The President's Appointees Whom the Senate Agrees To.

The Senate in executive session confirmed the following nominations on Dec. 20:

Cyrus J. Fry, marshal of South Dakota; Arthur L. Thomas, governor of Utah; Benjamin M. Thomas, secretary of New Mexico; Elijah Sells, secretary of Utah; Louis H. Tarpley, of Texas, United States commissioner for Alaska; at Dundas; Robert S. Robertson, Indiana, and Alvin Saunders, Nebraska, Utah commissioners; Royal A. Johnson, surveyor general of Arizona; Thomas J. Cavanagh, surveyor general of Washington.

Registers of Land Office—Charles A. Cornell, Valentine, Neb.; Wm. H. McCann, Chadron, Neb.; John A. McBeth, Denver, Colo.; Charles D. Ford, Lamar, Colo.; Wm. P. Alexander, Del Norte, Colo.; Edward A. Chaplin, Cheyenne, Wyoming; Charles G. Williams, Watertown, S. D.; Thomas M. Reed, jr., Seattle, Washington.

During the session of the Senate on Dec. 19, Senator McPherson criticised the action of President Harrison in removing the postmaster at Jersey City, and before voting to confirm the appointee wanted to know for what reason the old incumbent had been removed. Whereupon Senator Edmunds reminded him of the fact that he (McPherson) with other Senators, had voted to repeal the tenure of office act, thereby depriving the Senate of the right to ask the President or head of any department why any removal from office was made.

The Senate has confirmed the following names:

Diplomatic and consular—Edwin Dunn, secretary of legation to Japan; William R. Gardner, of Indiana, second secretary of legation to Japan; John Little, of Ohio, commissioner to settle Venezuelan claims.

The following consul-generals: William Hayden Edwards, of Ohio, at Berlin; John Marvin Crawford, of Ohio, at St. Petersburg; Frank H. Mason, of Ohio, at Frankfort-on-the-Main; Charles L. Knapp, of New York, at Montreal; Jos. A. Lagoni, of Minnesota, at Shanghai; Oliver H. Dockery, of North Carolina, at Rio Janorio; Henry W. Severance, of California, at Honolulu; Thackary T. Sweeny, of Indiana, at Constantinople.

Consuls: Horace C. Pugh, of Indiana, at Newcastle, England; Wallace Bruce, of New York, at Leith; Henry W. Diederich, of Indiana, at Leipsic; Charles P. Doll, of Ohio, at Malaga; Joseph P. Bradley, of West Virginia, at Southampton; William H. Bradley, of Illinois, at Nice; Oliver H. Simmons, of Colorado, at Hong Kong; Enoch J. Smithers, of Delaware, at Osaka and Hiogo; Mason D. Sampson, of Kansas, at St. Andrew, N. B.; Hugo M. Starkif, of Missouri, at Bremen; Irving J. Mouatt, of Nebraska, at Athens; Samuel J. Rubey, of Iowa, at Belfast; Horace G. Knowles, of Rhode Island, at Leeds; Rockford Moore, of South Carolina, at San Jose, Costa Rica; John Jarrett, of Pennsylvania, at Birmingham; Charles F. Johnson, of Ohio, at Hamburg; R. J. Hemmick, of Pennsylvania, at Geneva; Edward C. Godfrey, of Maine, at Shefield; Thomas R. Sikes, of Georgia, at Bradford; Silas C. Halsey, of New Jersey, at Sonneberg; Henry C. Fisk, of Vermont, at St. Johns, Q.; Hiram J. Dunlap, of Illinois, at Bresian; Edmund B. Fairfield, of Michigan, at Lyons; Lyell Hoag, of New York, at Havre; Oscar F. Williams, of New York, at Havre; Delos H. Smith, of Arizona, at Nogales; Nicholas Emith, of New York, at Three Rivers, Canada; Roger C. Spooner, of Wisconsin, at Prague; Joseph J. Reid, of Wisconsin, at Dublin; Walter Elgaulner, of Wisconsin, at Rotterdam, and William J. Grinnel, of New York, at Manchester.

Collectors of Customs—Joel B. Ehrhardt, at New York; Thomas W. Cooper, Philadelphia; John Mathead, Galena, Ill.; Albert R. Kellogg, New Haven, Conn.

F. Snowden Hill, Maryland; James E. French, New Hampshire; Ernest Nathan First New York district; Daniel M. Amess, Fourth Texas district; David W. McClung, Fifth district; John O. Cravens, Sixth Indiana district; John Feland, Second Kentucky district; Daniel Hogan, Thirteenth Illinois district; Cyrus Leland, Jr., Second Nebraska district; Thomas W. Bennett, Fifth Illinois district; James H. Peirce, Horace W. Bylington, Fourth California district; George F. Woodruff, Fifth Ohio district; and Marcus Bowers, Eleventh Ohio district.

The Senate has confirmed the following nominations:

David J. Brewer of Kansas to be Associate Justice of the Supreme court of the United States (the vote was 52 to 11); Wm. Walter Phelps of New Jersey to be minister to Germany; Solomon Hirsch of Oregon to be minister to Turkey; Thos. H. Anderson of Ohio, minister resident and consul-general to Bolivia; Frederick Douglas of the District of Columbia, minister resident and consul general to Hayti; A. Loudon Snowden of Pennsylvania, minister resident and consul-general to Roumania, Servia and Greece; Arthur W. Barrett of Massachusetts, secretary of the legation to Venezuela; John J. Chew of the District of Columbia, secretary of the Legation at Vienna; Robert S. McCormick of Illinois, second secretary of Legation at London; Frank W. Palmer of Illinois, to be public printer; Wakefield G. Fry of Maine, consul general at Halifax; Aug. O. Bourn of Rhode Island, consul general at Rome; Warren P. Sutton of Michigan, consul general at Nuevo Laredo; Evans Blake of Illinois, consul at Crefeid; Levi W. Brown of Ohio, consul at Glasgow; John B Osborne of Pennsylvania, consul at Ghent; Charles R. Pope of Missouri, consul at Toronto; William T. Rice of Massachusetts, consul at Leghorn; George W. Roosevelt, of Pennsylvania, consul at Brussels; Archibald J. Sampson, of Colorado, consul at Pass del Norte; Thomas H. Sherman, of the District of Columbia, consul at Liverpool; John A. Tibbitts, of Connecticut, consul at Bradford; Daniel B. Hubbard, consul at Annaberg; Benjamin H. Miller, of Maryland, Indian inspector; Arthur M. Tinker, of Massachusetts, Indian inspector; Commodore Francis M. Ramsey, to be chief of the Bureau of Navigation; Capt. George Dewey, chief of the Bureau of Equipment and Recruiting; Joseph P. McIntyre, of Illinois, captain in the navy, and a large number of naval promotions.

Contested Elections.

The sub-committee of the House Elections committee, charged with the arrangement of the contested election cases, completed its work on Dec. 20 without much difficulty. After some discussion it was agreed that the Republicans should select one case and the Democrats another in alternation, until all were arranged. This course was adopted, with the following resulting order for the hearing of the cases:

Smith vs. Jackson, West Virginia; McGinnis vs. Alderson, West Virginia; Atkinson vs. Pendleton, West Virginia; Featherston vs. Cate, Arkansas; Mudd vs. Compton, Maryland; Threet vs. Clarke, Alabama; Posey vs. Parrett, Indiana; Bowen vs. Buchanan, Virginia; Waddell vs. Wise, Virginia; Eaton vs. Phelan, Tennessee; McDuffie vs. Turpin, Alabama; Chalmers vs. Morgan, Alabama; Langston vs. Venable, Virginia; Miller vs. Elliott, South Carolina; Hill vs. Catchings, Mississippi; Kernaghan vs. Hooker, Mississippi; Goolrich vs. Bullock, Florida. No order was made in the case of Baker vs. Forman (Illinois), as this is not a contest but simply a motion on Baker's part to be allowed the expenses of the contest which he inaugurated, and afterwards abandoned, upon the recount of the vote.

According to the arrangement the first case—Smith vs. Jackson, West Virginia—is to be heard January 7, and thereafter is to be heard January 7, and thereafter two cases will be heard weekly for two consecutive weeks. An intermission of a week will follow and then the regular order will be resumed. The cases are to be reported to the House in the order in which they are heard before the committee.

HOUSE COMMITTEES.

Speaker Reed's Announcement—Ohio is In It.

The speaker of the House has announced a number of committees. The chairmen are as follows:

Judiciary, Ezra B. Taylor, of Ohio; Banking and Currency, Dorsey, Nebraska; Coinage, Weights and Measures, Conger, Iowa; Commerce, Baker, New York; Rivers and Harbors, Henderson, Illinois; Merchant Marine and Fisheries, J. M. Farquhar, New York; Agriculture, Funston, Kansas; Foreign Affairs, Hitt, Illinois; Military Affairs, Outcheon, Michigan; Naval Affairs, Bout-lle, Maine; Postoffices and Post Roads, Bingham, Pennsylvania; Public Lands, Payson, Illinois; Indian Affairs, Perkins, Kansas; Territories, Struble, Iowa; Railways and Canals, McCormick, Pennsylvania; Mines and Mining, Carter, Montana; Public Buildings and Grounds, Milliken, Missouri; Pacific Railroads, Dalzell, Pennsylvania; Levees and Improvements of the Mississippi, Burrows, Michigan; Education, O'Donnell, Michigan; Labor, Wade, Missouri; Militia, Henderson, Iowa; Patents, Butterworth, Ohio; Invalid Pensions, Morrill, Kansas; Pensions, Delano, New York; Claims, Laidlaw, New York; War Claims, Thomas, Wisconsin; Private Land Claims, Caswell, Wisconsin, District of Columbia, Grout, Vermont; Revision of Laws, Browne, Indiana; Expenditures in the State department, Scranton, Pennsylvania; Expenditures in the Treasury department, Atkinson, Pennsylvania; Expenditures in the War department, Yardley Pennsylvania; Expenditures in the Navy department, Sawyer, New York; Expenditures in the Postoffice department, Brower, Nort. Carolina; Expenditures in the Interior department, Banks, Massachusetts; Expeditures in the department of Justice, Sherman, New York; Expenditures in department of Agriculture, La Follette, Wisconsin; Expenditures in Public Buildings, Flood, New York; Library, O'Neill, Pennsylvania; Printing, Russell, Connecticut; Election of President and Vice President, Lodge, Massachusetts; Eleventh Census, Dunnell, Minnesota; Indian Depredation Claims, Herman, Oregon; Reform in Civil Service, Lehlbach, New Jersey; Ventilation and Acoustics, Haugen, Wisconsin; Alcoholic Liquor Traffic, J. D. Taylor, Ohio; Irrigation of Arid Lands, Vandever, California; Immigration and Naturalization, Owen, Indiana.

In addition to the above are the following previously announced:

Elections, Rowell, Illinois; Ways and Means, McKinley, Ohio; Appropriations, Cannon, Illinois; Manufactures, Keiley, Pennsylvania; Accounts, Spooner, Rhode Island; Mil-itage, Lind, Minnesota; Enrolled Bills, Kennedy, Ohio; Six-coin Investigation Committee (select), Adams, Illinois.

FIFTY-FIRST CONGRESS.

The Proceedings of the Two Houses in Washington.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Among the bills reported from committees and placed on the calendar, were the following:

To relieve the treasurer of the United States from the amount now charged to him and deposited with the several states.

To credit and pay to the several states and territories, and the District of Columbia, the amount of the direct tax paid by or charged to them.

To increase the pensions of pensioners who are entirely helpless.

A communication from the President of the United States to Congress in regard to the international maritime conference now in session at Washington, and recommending earnestly that a further extension of the limit of its continuance for two months from January 1, 1890, be authorized, and was (with accompanying papers) referred to the committee on foreign relations.

Among the bills introduced in the Senate were the following: By Mr. Pierce—Directing the secretary of the interior to cause the necessary surveys to be made to ascertain the feasibility of diverting the waters of the Missouri, the James, the Mouse and the Red rivers to the purposes of irrigation in North Dakota and to cause the sinking of artesian wells to develop the extent of the artesian basin underlying the state. It appropriates $150,000.

By Mr. Hale—Providing that the compensation of census supervisors shall not be less than $1,000.

By Mr. Mitchell—The Chandler bill of the last Congress for the creation of a division of silk culture in the department of agriculture.

By Mr. Teller—Authorizing the citizens of Colorado, Nevada and the territories to fell and remove timber on the public domain for mining and domestic purposes. Also, providing that the half-dollar shall contain one-half, the quarter-dollar one-fourth and the dime one-tenth of the amount of silver contained in the standard dollar.

In the House, half a dozen unimportant bills were introduced.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19—Mr. Sherman, from the committee on Foreign Relations, reported (in connection with the President's message of yesterday) a joint relation on extending to March 1, 1890, the time for holding the international maritime conference, and after a brief explanation the joint resolution was passed.

Mr. Morgan then introduced a joint resolution looking to the recognition of the new Republic of Brazil. It went over.

Mr. Mitchell reported back the resolution calling on the postmaster general for estimates of the cost of extending the free delivery system to towns of 3,000 and of 5,000 inhabitants. Agreed to.

Mr. Plumb offered an amendment (similar to that of last session) to the Pacific railroad funding bill. Referred.

Mr. Blair, from the committee on Education and Labor, report d back his bill to provide for the establishment and temporary support of common schools, and gave notice that as soon as possible after the Christmas recess, he would call it up for action. Calendar.

Mr. Coke offered a resolution calling on the attorney-general for information as to the attack on Justice Field in California, and the killing of David S. Terry by Deputy Marshal Nagle. Laid over till to-morrow.

After an executive session the Senate adjourned.

Under the call of states in the House the following bills were introduced and referred:

Weaver, (Ia.) To reduce the tax; to refund the cotton tax; to place cotton bagging on the free list; to regulate immigration and to amend the naturalization laws; also, to prohibit aliens from acquiring title to lands in the United States; to provide for the forfeiture of all unearned land grants; forfeiting certain lands granted to the Northern Pacific railroad; forfeiting certain lands granted to the Atlantic & Pacific railroad; to repeal the pre-emption and timber culture laws; to prohibit members of Congress from selling or contracting for aided lines of railroad; to provide for a graduated income tax; to tax trusts; to prevent a contraction of currency; to repeal all laws requiring the accumulation of gold; for the redemption of treasury notes; for the free coinage of silver.

Requesting the President to open negotiations with Mexico for the establishment of friendly and commercial relations, and for the adjustment of boundaries; for the importation of sweet teas free of duty; to repeal the duty on sugar, and to pay a bounty for aid in the cultivation of sugar; for the free importation of jute bagging; to permit the President to veto separate items in general appropriation bills; to repeal flax, hemp, agricultural implements, sugar, salt and lumber on the free list; also to repeal the arrears limitation; to promote commercial union with Canada.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—The House concurrent resolution for a holiday recess from Saturday next till Monday, January 6, was presented and concurred in.

Among the bills presented from committees and placed on the calendar, was one to authorize the construct on of a bridge across the Missouri river, at or near the mouth of the Kansas river.

Mr. Stewart, from the committee on Military Affairs, reported a resolution directing an examination by the treasury of the war claims of the state of California, growing out of Indian hostilities and disturbances, and it was agreed to.

Mr. Chandler called up the resolution offered by him some days since in regard to organization among naval officers to influence congressional legislation. After further discussion the resolution was agreed to. The Senate then went into executive session.

After the doors were reopened messages were received from the House announcing the deaths, during the recess, of Representatives Laird, of Nebraska; Townshend, of Illinois, and Cox, of New York. Resolutions expressive of the regret of the Senate were offered by Senators Manderson, Cullom and Evarts and were agreed to, and, as a further remark of respect to the deceased, the Senate adjourned.

The House devoted its time mostly to the introduction of bills.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Mr. Edmunds, in presenting a petition for the extension of the time for making pension applications, remarked that it was evidently one of the printed petitions sent around by persons engaged in getting them up. If it was genuine (as he presumed it was) it was deserving of such consideration as it was entitled to.

Mr. Morgan called up his joint resolution, recognizing the United States of Brazil as a free, independent and sovereign state, and proceeded to address the Senate in advocacy of it. The discussion was taken part in by Senators Sherman, Evarts, Ingalls, McPherson, Eustis and Teller.

The question was taken on the motion to refer the resolution to the committee on foreign relations. All the Republicans voted aye, and all the Democrats, except Mr. Call, voted no. There was, however, no quorum voting (yeas, 29; nays, 15), and the whole matter went over without definite action.

In the House, the Senate resolution extending the thanks of Congress to Chief Justice Melville W. Fuller for appropriate address delivered by him on the occasion of the commemoration of the inauguration of George Washington, first President of the United States, was agreed to. The Silcott matter was discussed.

Silcott's Steal.

The special House committee investigating the Silcott defalcation has at last agreed upon a report, by the terms of which an appropriation will be asked to make good the losses sustained by the members of the House. The committee will withhold its report until after the holiday recess,

Holiday Recess.

The House concurrent resolution for a holiday recess from December 21 till Monday, January 6, was presented in the Senate and concurred in on Dec. 19.

Silcott Indicted.

The grand jury has indicted C. E. Silcott, late cashier of the office of Seargeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives, for grand larceny and forgery.

GENERAL NEWS.

STATE OF TRADE.

Review of Business During the Past Seven Days.

R. G. Dun & Co's. weekly review of trade, dated New York, Dec. 20, says: Mild weather causes increasing trouble. Perhaps the coal trade suffers most; many collieries in Pennsylvania have stopped, throwing over 4,000 men out of employment and great suffering results. The dry goods and boot and shoe trades are much affected. Collections are "only fair" at many Western points, partly satisfactory at Cleveland, and unpleasantly slow at Milwaukee, where much excitement is caused by a heavy failure at Fon Du Lac, and small failures have become alarmingly frequent.

In some Southern states trade is seriously affected for the time by the operation of the Farmers' Alliance, which enlists farmers in co-operative trading, and absorbs money which might otherwise go to settle indebtedness with merchants. The results, in some localities, almost paralyze trade. But the general tenor of reports is by no means unfavorable. The volume of trade continues larger than a year ago. Clearings outside of New York are still about 10 per cent larger than last year, and railroad earnings show a handsome increase.

The iron business seems for the moment a shade less promising. Recent sales of 60,000 tons of Bessemer pig at $21.50 are supposed to have supplied needs of large concerns, and with additional furnaces turned to production of this kind of iron, the future of prices is less clear. Rails are quiet, and it is believed that orders have been booked already for 700,000 tons deliverable next year. The actual output this year, including light rails, is believed to be 1,450,000 tons, against 1,364,447 last year. Bar iron has been advanced 2 cents by the association, but is quiet; plate and structural iron are firm. As a surprising reversal of the usual order of things, it is noted that an English order for 10,000 tons of pig iron has been received with a margin of $4 per ton deposited, and an English house has asked prices on 65,000 feet of wrought iron pipe, which is said to be selling at 11 cents net against 8.63 cents net in this country.

The exports in November appear to have exceeded those of last year by nearly or quite 30,000,000. But since December 1 the export trade has been a little smaller.

The treasury has made heavy disbursements, so that it holds $5,200,000 less cash than a week ago, and foreign exchange has advanced an eighth during the week. The general level of prices has scarcely changed.

The speculative markets have been comparatively dull. Only 8,000,000 bushels of wheat have been sold here, the price advancing about one cent, and the change thus far has been less than would naturally follow the close of navigation.

Sales of corn have been 5,500,000 bu with a fractional decline, but oats are a shade stronger.

Pork has dropped 25 cents per barrel and lard a shade; oil is ½c lower, with sales of only 1,000,000 barrels for the week, and coffee ⅝c lower, with sales of 331,000 bags.

Though receipts and exports of cotton both fail a little below those of the corresponding week last year, the price is unchanged.

The business failures number 342. For the corresponding week of last year the figures were 311.

NORTH DAKOTA.

The Prohibition Bill Passes Both House and Senate.

The prohibition bill was called up in the North Dakota Senate on Dec. 18, and after a bitter fight was passed by a vote of 23 to 8, it was hurried to the House, where the amendments were concurred in, and the bill passed. Before it could pass the Senate it was necessary to strike out the emergency clause, putting it in effect May 1.

It now takes the regular course, and will go into effect July 1.

Senator Fuller introduced a joint resolution for the amendment of the constitution by striking out all of the prohibition articles. The supporters of this resolution say the fact that the prohibitory bill passed by so large a majority is not good ground for believing that the proposed amendment will have no strength.

They say many members who believe the prohibition article in the constitution should be enforced, are in favor of submitting the proposition for amendment, believing that the proposition was not fairly presented at the last election.

The Legislature Takes a Holiday Recess —Bills Passed.

Governor Miller, of North Dakota, has signed the prohibition bill. The Inter-state Prohibition convention in session at Omaha, sent a message on Dec. 20 to the senate, congratulating that body upon the promptness with which it passed the prohibition bill. The message read like sarcasm, in view of the fact that the senate fought over it four days.

The school land bill has passed both houses, and is ready for the governor's signature. The governor received the Fargo agricultural bill on Dec. 19. He is in doubt as to what he should do.

The clerk-hire bill has become a law. It appears from this bill that it will cost $12,700 to pay the salaries of clerks in the several offices in the capitol. There will be an excursion of the legislators to Tacoma and Seattle, about 30 in number. Both houses adjourned until January 7.

IT COST MILLIONS.

The English Syndicate Now in Possession of the Northwestern Mills.

Financiers who are supposed to know all about the negotiations which have been in progress for several months for the purchase by an English syndicate of the C. C. Washburn flouring mills, at Minneapolis, give out that the deal has been closed.

The syndicate, which is represented in Chicago by Levi Mayer, recently paid $8,500,000, most of it in cash, for the Washburn mills, Senator Washburn's milling interest, the Star and Van Dusen system of elevators and a controlling interest in the St. Anthony Water Power company.

If the deal for the transfer of the C. C. Washburn mills has been consummated, as stated, the syndicate now controls the flour production and the storage capacity of the Northwest. A. M. Bailey, secretary and manager of the company, is now in Philadelphia engaged in the business attendant upon the transfer of stock, a majority of which is held by the Fidelity Trust company, of Philadelphia.

The Youngest Son of Chief Justice Waite Passes Away.

Mr. Edward T. Waite died at 2:30 o'clock a. m., Dec. 23, in Washington, D. C., where he had been the past five weeks, hoping thereby to recover from an illness with which he was seized two weeks previously.

The deceased was born in Maumee, Ohio, 41 years ago. The Waite family moved to Toledo while he was still a babe. His education was received at Williston seminary, at East Hampton, and at Yale, from which he graduated in 1869. He entered upon the study of law in his father's office and at the law school at Ann Arbor, and was admitted to the Lucas county bar in 1871. He became one of the present law firm of R. & E. T. Waite in 1874, and had since continued in the profession with ability and success. He was a well known and well thought of citizen, and his presence will be greatly missed. He was a Mason of the Scottish rite degree.

He was married in 1873, and his wife and two children, Mary, aged twelve, and Brainard, aged seven, survive him. Mrs. Waite and her son were with the deceased in Washington.

The Town of Hastings Excited Over a Real Estate Deal.

Interesting developments are looked for in the Elizabeth Kinnan claim, involving a one-eighth interest in the original townsite of the city of Hastings, Nebraska, in 1876, when the town site company dissolved, a proper division of the property was made to the various owners.

A Lincoln lawyer has been looking up the records and discovers that while Mrs. Melville W. Fuller for appropriate address delivered by him on the occasion of the commemoration of the inauguration of George Washington, first President of the United States, was agreed to. The Silcott matter was discussed.

The lawyer purchased the supposed right, and is now endeavoring to exact from property owners $25 a lot for quit claim deeds. A mass meeting of property owners declared the claim a bare-faced attempt at robbery. They will organize and contest the claim. The land comprises the best residence part of the city.

Ex-Congressman Lyman Ill.

Ex-Congressman Joseph Lyman was stricken with apoplexy at Council Bluffs, Iowa, on December 18. He was at first thought to be dead, but after being taken home he recovered somewhat, and is now alive, but with slight hopes of his final recovery. Mr Lyman was a member of the 49th and 50th congresses. He has a good record as a soldier, and is an able and successful lawyer.

HENRY W. GRADY DEAD.

The Famous Southern Editor a Victim of Pneumonia.

Henry W. Grady is dead. Death came at 3:40 a. m., on Dec. 23, at his home in Atlanta. Its coming had been feared by those who had watched the case closely, but nobody expected it so soon. The scene at his home during the last hours was most pathetic.

It was shortly after 11 o'clock that Dr. Everett announced that Mr. Grady was sinking rapidly and that the end was near. Then it was that all the members of the family and relations gathered about the sick bed, hoping against hope, yet praying that the cup might be taken from them.

Friends who had at the doctor's suggestion left the house a few hours previously, were hastily summoned. The same question—the same answer—"No hope, no, no." Strong men wept like children, one by one, then stole back, gazed for a few seconds upon the ashy pale face, and came back with bowed heads and sorrowing hearts.

They realized for the first time that death was inevitable; there was no hope. He was still unconscious. At 3:40 he drew his last breath and the great heart was still

At 2 o'clock in the afternoon of Christmas day the funeral ceremonies will take place. From every section of the state has come the request that his body might lie in state, so that the people might look on his face once more. In response to this request the family have consented that his body shall rest in the First Methodist church, of which Mr. Grady was a leading member, from 8 o'clock in the morning until the funeral hour. Mrs. Grady's request is that there be no display, nothing but the simplest possible funeral.

These requests will be carried out, and on Thursday special memorial services will be held at the new capitol, in which all the people, the military, and the societies of which he was a member will take part, and speakers will be chosen from among Mr. Grady's classmates at the University of Georgia, the class being famous for the large number of young men who have since won fame in their native state and out of it.

THE ECLIPSE.

A Difference of Reports as to the Expedition's Success.

Dispatches from St. Paul De Loando report that numerous photographs of the Solar eclipse were obtained by the American expedition during the period of totality. The effect was much obscured by clouds. All the apparatus in use worked to perfection. The photographs made on the Pensacola, which worked far out at sea, are likely to be particularly useful.

The English observors at St. Paul De Loando report that bad weather prevented useful results of observations.

The following gives the preliminary account of what the American expedition hoped to accomplish:

By the operation of the law of planetary motion the shadow of the moon, as cast by the sun in his passage on the other side, falls only upon a limited portion of the globe, varying in size according to the distance of the moon from the earth at the time of the eclipse. The nearer she is the wider the shadow area.

The outer edges of the two ellipses and the upper and lower connecting curves mark the area that will receive any portion of the shadow during the coming eclipse.

Of course in a very large part of this space the shadow is but a partial one. In fact, on the edge of the shadow field there is no appreciable diminution in the sun's light, the only effect of the eclipse being the darkening of one edge of his disk. As the observer goes south from the northern curve or comes north from the southern curve this obscuration of the disk grows and the sunlight becomes less and less until there is a point midway from both curves on which the actual shadow of the moon, as the word is generally used, falls. This is called the line of totality.

To an observer stationed at any point in this line the eclipse appears to come over the sun gradually, increasing momentarily, until the entire surface is covered, when, after a very short period of what is known as "totality," lasting from one to seven minutes in various eclipses, the black screen begins to withdraw itself and finally disappears.

The line of totality of this eclipse runs over most of its course in the watery spaces of the western hemisphere, touching land but twice in this continent. These points are Cape Orange, near Cayenne, French Guiana, and an unnamed point of land in the province of Piauhi, Brazil. Thence it shoots out across New York and Buenos Ayres. Some new methods of business to us will be introduced. It is our intention to sell by sample, just as a traveling man would, and send our order to this country to be filled."

Pension Claims.

Commissioner Raum, of the pension bureau, on Dec. 24 issued an important order looking to the speedy determination of all cases in his office in which no material evidence for or against the applicant seems to be wanting. He directs that the files of all pendidg claims shall at once be examined, and a list of such as seem to be complete shall be kept and known as the "completed files." Chiefs of divisions are directed to require all examiners to devote their entire time during five days of each week to the consideration of these completed cases, acting upon them in the order of the filing of the last piece of evidence. On Saturday of each week the entire force of examiners are required to devote themselves to the examination of cases there upon the pending list and in making the necessary call for evidence in those cases.

As soon as the necessary evidence in any case is received that case will immediately be put upon the completed list and receive proper action in its regular order. It is expected that Saturday of each week, the day to be devoted to incomplete cases, each examiner in the office will be able to make the necessary examination and calls for additional evidence in at least fifteen cases. An improvement also has been made in the manner of keeping the record in each case of what evidence has been received and what is still required to make it complete.

To View the Corona.

The main object nowadays in viewing eclipses is to obtain new light on the subject of the nature and extent of the corona, the bright effulgence which is seen surrounding the sun's disk at the moment of totality. As soon as the blinding rays are shut off by the medium of the moon this halo appears. It is an uncertain quantity in size as well as character, for it varies tremendously in different eclipses. There is first a very bright rim of light lying close to the dark edge of the moon, then the flames take definite shape and shoot off into space to enormous distances.

Russian Influenza the Latest Imported Novelty.

The Russian influenza reached Detroit and up to Dec. 20 only bank employes were afflicted. This is attributed, however, to the report that the microbes travel in paper money and when the contagious paper has been freely circulated in the city it is expected the disease will become epidemic. At the Peninsular bank nine of the employes were sick at one time.

In the Preston National there are four cases. The entire staff of the First National has it, and there are two cases in the Merchants' and Manufacturers' bank. The symptoms are different in nearly every case. In some it produces "an all-gone, tired, kind of before-taking feeling," as one expressed it, while in others the lining to the nose, mouth and throat is affected; still others have a cough. Lameness is one of the general points in which it shows up strong.

The Non-Partisan W. C. T. U. Issue an Address to the Public.

The non-partisan portion of the W. C. T. U. issued an address, dated Cleveland, December 21, in which they say the lamentable loss of moral power that has resulted from the partisan attitude of the National W. C. T. U. may be in a measure retrieved by a society keeping itself free from all party entanglements, so free, they claim, that no political vultures will ever hover over its convention, hoping to bear away any influence that will help them to places of power.

They invite correspondence and call for a mass convention to be held in Cleveland, January 22, 1890, to organize a national society.

Want Protection at the Polls.

A conference of a number of leading colored men from various sections of Virginia was held at Richmond on December 18 at which a preamble and resolutions were adopted memorializing Congress to pass a general election law which would guarantee them a better right of suffrage than they now enjoy.

Trust Movements.

The report from New York that the big sugar trust has prepared to transfer its assets to a new corporation if the court of Appeals pronounces the trust illegal, is known to indicate that the trust will seek refuge within the sheltering arms of the Commonwealth Refining company of Hartford, Conn.

Montana's Muddle.

Both houses of the legislature adjourned on Dec. 24 until December 27 without anything new in the situation.

THE STUBBORN JUROR.

Culver's Actions Under the Circumstances Are Queer.

State's Attorney Longenecker, after a conference with one of the Cronin jury, whose name he with held, told how the verdict was reached. As surmised, Juror John Culver, who spent much of his spare time during the long evenings reading the Bible, was the influential factor. The first incident in this connection occurred while the trial was in progress—the time when Mrs. Conklin testified. That evening Mr. Culver notified his fellow-jurors that he solemnly believed she had committed perjury. Later Mrs. Hoertel, he thought, was a liar, and Martinson, the expressman, did not really know Burke, while the Carisons were plainly telling falsehoods. To illustrate as to Expressman Martinson, Mr. Culver told of the mistake made by the wife of his partner who one day saw a man riding in a buggy whom she was sure was Culver, when in point of fact she was entirely mistaken.

Culver, as the trial neared the end, seemed to see in nearly every witness for the state a vindictive or a purchased perjurer. He plainly hinted that it looked like a conspiracy on the state's part. The matter of having witnesses under the charge of detectives was one of the things he thought looked bad. He was not sure Dr. Cronin ever went to the Carison cottage, and when asked, "How do you account for the bloody trunk?" said: "Why, for all we know, a dog may have been taken away in it."

Strong Language Used by Judge Longenecker to Juror Culver.

Juror John Culver, who saved the necks of Coughlin, O'Sullivan and Burke, came to Chicago on Dec. 19, for the first time since he returned to his home after the trial. He went directly to State's Attorney Longenecker's office in company with Banker S. A. Kean.

The public prosecutor was greeted by the now famous juror as his "Dear brother Joel." Mr. Longenecker got mad all over in less than a minute.

"Don't you call me brother Joel any more," he cried, as he refused to grasp Culver's extended hand. "I don't know what to make of you. I don't pretend to say that your motive in voting as you did was anything but honorable, but I don't care to talk with you. You have made a mistake in coming here. You talked about the case all the time, even before Forrest made his speech, as if you thought I was at the head of the conspiracy to take the lives of five men.

"I tell you, Culver, you have no business here. In the jury room you maligned and libeled honest men and women who appeared as witnesses for the state, and you have accused me of conspiracy. But I shall not waste breath on so miserable an object as you are. I tell you, Culver, that you are either dishonest or a fool. From my past experience with you I will admit that you are not a fool."

Culver was plainly nervous during this terrible onslaught, and backed his way toward the door. Banker Kean tried to act as peacemaker, but the now thoroughly aroused prosecutor turned upon him also, and in a loud voice commanded him to hold his tongue. The two men then left the building.

A Cronin Suspect Dead.

Peter McGeehan died at the Chicago hospital, on Dec. 21, of pneumonia, aged 26. McGeehan was the athletic Philadelphia blacksmith who was arrested as a suspect shortly after the disappearance of Dr. Cronin. The Philadelphian was strongly believed for a time to be one of the men wanted by the prosecution, but was finally released. He had been lying ill in the hospital for several days.

BUSINESS BOOM.

The Good Effect of the Pan-American Excursion Noticeable.

Senor Acevido, of Buenos Ayres, was in Chicago on Dec 20. He has been visiting several of the larger cities, securing agencies for an American manufacturing institution in the Argentine republic. "We are already feeling the good effects of the Pan-American congress," said he, "and it will not be long before the commercial relations between the United States and our country are very friendly.

"We intend to open a large sample room in Buenos Ayres, where all sorts of American manufactures can be displayed. As is generally known, the South American trade is almost entirely with Europe. Now there is no reason why this country can't have a large share of it. After the first of January a new line of steamers will begin making regular trips every week New York and Buenos Ayres. Some new methods of business to us will be introduced. It is our intention to sell by sample, just as a traveling man would, and send our order to this country to be filled."

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The Navigation of the Sacramento Impaired.

The floods of the last week caused an immense break in the levee along the Sacramento river, about two miles below Sacramento City. The water has been pouring through this opening in the bank ever since, and a bar has commenced to form across the river below the break. Consequently rfears are entertained that the channel of the river would change, and that navigation would be destroyed.

Governor Waterman held a conference with a number of citizens, and it was determined to bring the matter to the attention of the general government at once. The Governor sent the following dispatch to Senator Stanford: "Sacramento river is in danger of changing its channel. There is a break two miles below here which is one thousand feet wide. An immense bar is forming below the break across the river. As hydraulic mining has ceased, the appropriation of $250,000 in the hands of the War department is available, and ought to be one of the general points in which it shows up strong."

Montana Legislature.

The Montana Senate completed its organization on December 19, by the election of officers. There were fourteen senators and the lieutenant governor present. The seven Democrats refused to vote, but the presiding officer declared the seven Republican members made a quorum, and after the election of a president pro tem, a majority of the Democrats retired from the chamber. The Senate appointed a committee of three to wait on the Republican House and inform that body the Senate was organized and ready for business.